



The RAEME Association Tasmania Newsletter

March 2006

Issue 3

The RAEME Association (Tasmania) Inc.

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Welcome

Welcome fellow Bluebells to the third edition of the RAT Newsletter. I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and a joyful new year.

It was pleasing to see a good turn out for the RAEME birthday, a great day was had by all, and I hope that the membership numbers will continue to grow this year. The COLCOMDT Tas/Vic Region Colonel Terry Beaton made his inaugural visit to Tasmania and was full of compliments regarding the Association and its members.

You would have received your calendar by now, you will see that we have changed a

number of venues for the year which will be explained in more detail in the newsletter.

I would like members to have a look through some of their old photos and bring along to the next BBQ, it would be great if we can expand the photo board and I would like to scan some photos and put in upcoming newsletters.

Don't forget the AGM in March. Fort Direction has been booked for the weekend, I believe that a hootchie line is available for old time sakes. – Ed

Colonel Commandant's New Year Report

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Very Happy New Year. Issue No 44 (Mar 05) of "The Flash", published my "Vision" statement delivered as ColComdt-(**Elect**) at the 2004 Corps Dinner. It stipulated the importance of mateship, welfare to each other and regaining lost Corps ethos; especially as "Esprit de Corps" has no statute of limitation. It also promised to establish a database of all RAEME living in "my patch", increase pride in our past and create a system of widely disseminating information about Corps activities in the Region.

It has now been seven months since officially receiving my appointment by the Chief of Army and a good time to reflect on progress for my ambitious vision. At last year's Corps Dinner, I presented the motto for 2006, which was "**To Establish**". To say that the last six months has been hectic, is an understatement. Yet it can also be said that through the dedication of numerous people, substantial achievements have already been gained. With regard to the establishment of a database and dissemination of information - not only has project "**Finding RAEME**" already discovered the contact details for 868 "all ranks", from a seriously outdated list of 112 officers only; but through highly successful reunions held at "The Stump" on 20 Oct 05 and "The Seymour Club" on 1 Feb 06, motivated steering groups are working hard to establish local organisations to cater for the needs of RAEME in the Albury/Wodonga and Seymour/Pucka areas. These two new groups have joined Committee members of a re-invigorated RAEME Vietnam Veterans Organisation and are all working towards the

establishment of autonomous 'Chapters' under the "Incorporation" protection offered by the RAEME Association of Victoria (RAV). I am deeply grateful to the incredible support given by Andy Turner and his crew "Up North" and by Dave Maddick and veterans in Seymour.

Despite these gains however, it is my belief that the establishment of these Chapters will still only capture 20 percent of former RAEME personnel living in the Region. We have a long way to go to find the remaining 3000 estimated MIA (Missing in Area) and bring them from the "dark side" of neglect and bitterness to join the new proactive "Force" in RAEME in this region. Your help is therefore needed to rectify this sad deficiency by checking with your mates that they are **at least** on the Col Comdt's list, should they choose not to join one of the newly forming Chapters or the RAV itself.

The establishment of a cyber Regional Corps Committee called "EME Group" has brought representation from numerous Corps related Associations into a network of email addressees for maximum dissemination of information about future activities. Apart from reaching currently serving members through the RAEME Mafia network, efficiently run by Jeff Bruhn, former Corps members are currently being advised through RAV newsletters, email notices and established websites, like that run by 106 Fd Wksp. The latest inclusion to the Cyber Committee are representatives from the newly reforming Australian Army Apprentice Association (AAAA).

With regards to establishing pride in our past, not only has substantial development already been achieved with the EME exhibit at the Army Museum in Bandiana, but the "RAEME Day of Remembrance" on Sunday, 29 Jan 06 will go down in

Corps history for its uniquely united Commemoration of the loss of RAEME Training Centre and our recently lost Corps members, which was simultaneously held in three separate locations in two different States. Despite heat, short notice and the complication of an unofficial extra long weekend, nearly 200 dedicated Corps members and family ignored distractions to attend services in Melbourne, Bandiana and Hobart. The success of this new regional initiative could be readily seen from discussions at the pub afterwards on how to improve next year's Day of Remembrance. Not only the Corps, but also the public were evidently affected by the "Symbolism of the Day", as crosses, poppies and wreaths laid around the RAEME Memorial Tree in Melbourne were completely untouched over a week later, much to the disbelief of the Shrine Guards and members of Staff.

Without doubt a most memorable highlight would have to be attending Corps Birthday Celebrations in Tasmania. As the first ColComdt to visit Hobart for several years, I also had the honour to represent the Corps at the 2nd Force Support Battalion (2 FSB) CO's Handover Parade attended by the Commander LSF, BRIG Kehoe. I am extremely grateful to Russell Clark (President), WO2 Steve Wilson and many of the hard workers of the newly reformed RAEME Association of Tasmania, (proudly shortened to "the RAT"), who made the weekend's Corps Birthday celebrations so successful. Despite being a small, widely spread group, their dedication is highly commendable and notably leaves other local Corps Associations in their wake! They further demonstrated their high level of motivation, when 26 out of the 50 plus membership attended their Day of Remembrance Service at Derwent Barracks - despite the long weekend!!. Any RAEME traveling to the Apple Isle would be warmly welcomed by this Merry Band of

Bluebells, but just watch out for Rolly's "Shed" and his home brew! This renowned bastion of RAEME hospitality-Tassie style- caused many of the Committee Members to depart the following day's Corps Birthday celebrations **BEFORE** the ColComdt - through obvious tiredness and other complications!!!

Over the remainder of 2006, efforts will continue to lift the profile of "**The Craftsman of the Year**" Award, to ensure greater unit participation in 2006; especially with Banner Miniatures at stake as this year's prize. This is being achieved by unit visits, to the Puckapunyal, Bandiana and Metro areas. The recent discovery of numerous ARA and ARES Craftsmen in Regional units, only serves to highlight the pathetic effort by most units in recent years for this once prestigious award, despite Max Moore's valiant efforts. Visits have already been conducted to JLU (V) at Puckapunyal and Bandiana, with requests to teach Corps History to a Logistic Officers Basic Course (LOBC) on 22 Feb 06 and a formal visit to 26 Tpt Sqn Wksp (Pucka) in Mar 06. It is hoped that by 1 Dec 06, the COLComdt's list will detail over 2500 names, leaving an estimated 1500 MIA. Support will also be given to assist the 106 Fd Wksp Association to hold a successful "*Back To The Heart Land*" Reunion over 17-20 Aug 06. Upgrading the EME exhibit will concentrate on having all cabinets filled with items of historical importance to RAEME, which will be professionally mounted and with informative descriptions.

Throughout the year, wherever possible, I shall attend any Corps or Unit functions to which I am invited. Regrettably I will not be able to attend RAV's ANZAC activities and the Annual RAEME Mafia Dinner at Victoria Barracks SGTs Mess on 5 May 06, due to prior commitments associated with ANZAC Day Commemorations in Thailand

and Burma. But actively encourage all to support these activities; especially Jeff Bruhn with his rare opportunity to enjoy a traditional formal 'All Ranks' dinner in military surroundings, as poor attendance could strip this annual activity from the SGT's Mess Calendar due to growing pressure to save costs with contract catering. In plain language - support it or lose it!

I will now leave you to judge whether my ambitious "Vision" is being achieved through the hard work of a dedicated "Band of brothers" who have the Corps in their heart and not just on their mantelpiece or wall!

Yours – "With Skill"

Colonel Terry Beaton

Norm Thomas

Spoke recently to Norm who advised me that he was "still above the ground" and "Every day above the ground is a good one". He sounds good and has an unbelievably good attitude towards his illness. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Norm "Good health". Don't be surprised to see Norm at the AGM.

RAEME Birthday.

Well what a day!!! Those who didn't make missed out on a great birthday. The committee needs commending on a great day. A special thanks to Wal, I'll give him bloody Taxi.

The COLCOMDT made his inaugural visit to the state and as you can see from his comments made in his New Years Report he was more than happy.

The obvious highlight of the day was the cutting of the cake by Trump and our youngest member Phil Whitney.

There will be photos of the birthday in the June newsletter.

Inaugural RAEME Remembrance Day

The inaugural RAEME Remembrance Day was held at "the piston" at 2 FSB on Sunday the 29th January 2006 at 1100h. This coincided with services at Melbourne and Bandiana. Approximately 25 association members attended the service which was followed by refreshment and nibbles at the Glenorchy RSL.

This will be an annual event which will give us time to reflect on fallen RAEME comrades.

On behalf of the association, I would like to thank all those members that attended and in particular Rev. Charles Whitton, Phantom and Trump.

Photos of the Remembrance day are attached to the rear of this newsletter.

Where's Wal

Most bluebells would know that Warrant Officer Class Two, Steve Wilson, better known as WAL resigned from the ARA in January 06 and is seeking a new career as a Police Officer, and is currently training as a cadet at the Police Academy (a little piglet). I have know doubt that Wal will be up to his little antiques, and Wal, I look forward to the Traffic Management training on defect notices. I am sure that you would all join me in wishing Wal good luck in his new career.

Wal was instrumental in reforming the Association, and I would personally like to thank him for all his support over the last eighteen-months. And to top this of he has gone over to the dark side and is now a

Captain in the GRES. Look out Officers Mess...here comes Wal.

Membership.

Phantom advises us that membership stands at .

Constitution.

The constitution has been finalized and has been signed off.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting will be held on Sunday the 26th march 2006 at Fort Direction at 1200h. A BBQ will follow the meeting. Do you consider that you would like to hold a committee position? Nominate yourself.

Fort Direction

As discussed at the Birthday, three camp sites at Fort Direction have been booked for 25th-26th March 06 (Sat and Sun). From 1100h onwards. A flier is enclosed with the newsletter. A gold coin donation is all that is needed to stay overnight.

ANZAC day

Last year approximately 20 members marched in Hobart. It would be great if we can exceed this number this year. We generally meet at Anglesea Barracks Sergeants Mess at approximately 0900h forming up at 1000h in Macquarie St near Victoria St. From the Cenotaph we will converge on the "Ye Old Commodore Inn" for a counter meal and a quiet one or two. Let's hope we see you there.

Mid year function

From the calendar that you received earlier this year you will see that we will be having a mid year function on Saturday the 24th June 2006, after speaking to Pop, there has been a change of venue, the dinner will now be at the Claremont RSL. Pop assures

me that they have a great venue and the meals are second to none. More on that in the next newsletter. In the mean time mark the 24th of your calendar.

Summary

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

Let's see a large gathering at the AGM at the Fort. Remember your support for our association is important.

See you there.

Arte et Marte

