

September 2023 NEWSLETTER



RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (RAEMESA)

Editor

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Vice President	WO2 John Prince	Mob: 0417 156 467
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Secretary	Don Harvy	Mob: 0412 021 411
- Postal Address	10 Oliver Street REYNELLA S.A.	5161

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Brian Holmes	Ph: (08) 8362 3216
John Howard	Ph: (08) 8445 2425
Bob Killoran	Mob: 0412 060 315
Greg Rosser	Mob: 0423 715 464
Doug Pammenter	Mob: 0417 840 279
Lou Leeuwrik	Mob: 0438 144 302
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Membership Member	Bob Matthew
Merchandising Member	Bob Killoran
Association Historian	John Howard
Website Coordinator	Bob Matthew
Banner Coordinator	Lou Leeuwrik

Honorary COLCOMDT - Central Region:-
COL Andrew Herbert

AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc.

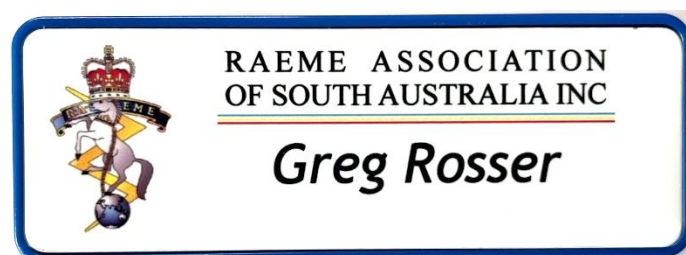
Web Site (www.sa.raeme.org.au)

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NEW NAME BADGES



At the RAEME Luncheon we had a number of requests about getting new name badges. They are still available for \$10 each (PLUS Postage if applicable).

If you would like a new badge please email Mike Culley at culleymj@bigpond.com
Please include your Name (Printed as you would like it spelt - see badge above) and specify if you would like a pin or magnet fixing.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I trust everyone is well and surviving the colder weather of this year's winter. I must admit having been fortunate and avoided most of it by being in Darwin for 10 weeks from May through end of July. No, I was not on holidays but actively busy working with a team of ADF and US Army personnel during the lead up and execution of Exercise Talisman Sabre 23. A great experience and a reminder of what can be achieved when professional people work together.

Being interstate for that period meant I missed a few association activities, Committee meetings and the Vietnam Veterans Vigil to name a few. Within this newsletter, there is an excellent article on the vigil that was conducted on 3 August at the gravesite of CFN Douglas Borlace. Congratulations and thanks to Bob Killoran and the team for arranging and conducting the event.

Association Members and readers of this newsletter would be aware of the long-standing involvement our Association has had with ensuring the sacrifice made by CFN Borlace is not forgotten. In 2003 the Association arranged a plinth and plaque highlighting the circumstances of his death. More recently, in 2019 we arranged an interpretive story board be installed to further commemorate the service and sacrifice of CFN Borlace.

Many people would also be aware the Unit Canteen at 106 Fd Wksp is named the Borlace Club.

While on the topic of memorials, the unveiling of the RAEME Recovery Mechanics Memorial was conducted on 30 August. The construction of this memorial was initiated following the tragic death of WO2 Ryan Leslie and CFN Brendon Payne who died in a vehicle accident in Aug 2021.

The memorial has been constructed using funds accumulated by donations from serving members, friends, family, colleagues and associations to name a few. Please take the time to read the article in this newsletter.

Key dates for the next few months are included in this edition. Hope to see you at least one of the activities. Details in the newsletter.

The planned Annual Combined Log Services Dinner, which was scheduled for Friday 22 September has had to be cancelled due to the lack of registrations by the cut-off date. The organising committee felt it was not fair to the West Lakes Golf Club to leave it and cancel at the last minute.

Our AGM and RAEME Birthday Lunch are scheduled for 2 December. It will be great to have a big turnout again and even better if we have some new nominations from people wanting to serve on the Association Committee.

Stay safe and keep in touch with each other,

Arte et Marte
Regards Richard Moyses
President

Is your Membership up for Renewal??????

Subs are due on 1st July in the year your membership expires. Reminders have been sent out so if you have forgotten to pay **NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT.**

Subs are \$10 per year with a maximum forward payment of 5 years eg \$50 for five years.

If in doubt please contact our Treasurer/Membership Member
CPL Bob Matthew (mobile) **0409 962 208**

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) facilities are available.

BSB **065-127**
Account No. **00900324**
Account Name **RAEME ASSOCIATION of SA INC**

Please send an email to our Membership Member advising him of the payment.
robert.m1@bigpond.com



RAEME Association of SA **DIARY DATES 2023**



Activity/Function

Date

- Committee of Management Meeting
- RAEME and other Log Association's Combined Dinner
- 2023 Annual General Meeting
- 2023 Corps Birthday Family Function

Wednesday 20th September
 CANCELLED
 Saturday 2nd December
 Saturday 2nd December

Allied Military Association Functions

- REME Activities for 2023 (Various)
- Keswick Museum History Activities

Details will be circulated when provided
 (see www.amosa.org.au)

VALE – Lest We Forget



***No Soldiers Advised in SA
 Lest We Forget***



Online lists of recent RAEME members Deaths and Illnesses are always available at:

- <http://www.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-alt>
- <http://www.sa.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/vale-report>

RAEME 'HARRY THE HORSE' LUNCHEON

The second Luncheon for 2023 was held on 5th September at the West Adelaide Football Clubrooms, 57 Milner Road, Richmond. Another great activity with 20(+) people attending.



The RAEME crew at the 2023 September Luncheon



Bob Killoran with some of his RAEME Merchandise

The next Luncheon will be on the first Tuesday in March (5th March 2024) at 12noon.
Put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there.

WHY NOT JOIN US AND BRING SOME FRIENDS

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DOUG PAMMENTER




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John Prince - Photographics

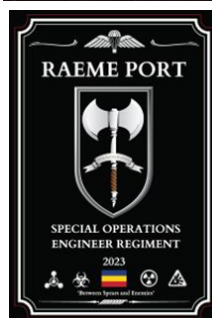



M: 0417156467

CORPORATE or *Casual*

Your images - The Way You Want Them

John.prince.photos@gmail.com

2023 RAEME PORT

This year's RAEME Port has been organised by SOER WKSP
It is an 8-year-old aged Tawny from Ernest Hill Wines in the Hunter Valley.

A percentage of profits from the port will go to the Kids West Charity

Our Merchandising Officer still has a few bottles of the 2022 Corps Port available if you are interested.

VIETNAM VETERAN'S VIGIL

CFN DOUGLAS BORLACE

As part of the "Vietnam Veterans Vigil" initiative RAEME SA organised a service which was held at the gravesite of **42809 CFN DOUGLAS GRAHAM BORLACE** to recognise and celebrate his ultimate sacrifice for his country. Doug's body was repatriated to Australia and interred in the Stirling Cemetery, Strathalbyn Road, Bridgewater.

With our President and Secretary away interstate and overseas respectively it was left in the capable hands of Bob (Klackers) Killoran and his "team" to organise the service. The RAEMESA Team consisted of Bob (Chief Organiser), John Prince (Photographer), Lou Leeuwrik (Standard and Flag Bearer), Greg Rosser (PA, Wreath Book), Mike and Marg Culley, Trevor Parrott, Grant Kuchel and Brian Holmes (Support Team).

We were capably supported by:

Padre: Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM

Piper: Simon Thompson

Bugler: Brenton Miegel

Twenty people braved the terrible weather forecast (of heavy showers), but we were fortunate, the rain stayed away during the service, the sun shone but the wind blew very strongly on the top of the hill.



Bob Killoran welcoming the Guests



Piper - Simon Thompson



Rev'd Brenton Daulby OAM conducting the Service

Rather than an actual wreath, the sub-committee elected to purchase a book (Peter FitzSimons epic "Battle of Long Tan") which was subsequently donated to Legacy SA/NT.



Greg Rosser Laying the Wreath



Lou Leeuwrik our Standard Bearer



Officiating Party, Association Members and Doug's Family

To round off the memorial most of us gathered at the Pump Hotel in Aldgate for a "Remembrance Drink(s)" and lunch after the service.

Thanks to John Prince for the photographs Ed

VIETNAM VETERANS VIGIL (VVV) AUSTRALIA

11.00am - 3rd August 2023

The Year 2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training team (AATTV) in South Vietnam (SVN) on the 3 August 1962 and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972.

To ensure all Veteran had the opportunity to be involved in celebrating these significant dates, the VVV provided surviving Vietnam Veterans (and the Australian people) the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way right across the nation and overseas in recognizing the individual losses and to pay their respects to those who were Killed in Action (KIA) and to show solidarity with their loved ones for their loss.

The VVV provided an opportunity to hold a Service of Remembrance at every gravesite or commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas on the 3rd August 2023. This collated virtual Gallery of Remembrance provided an enduring Legacy of Remembrance for all Australians.

42809 CFN DOUGLAS GRAHAM BORLACE

KIA 15th July 1968

Douglas Borlace grew up in the Adelaide Hills in Bridgewater and went to Oakbank Area School. He joined the Army and started recruit training in 1962. After 3 years with Armoured Corp he transferred to RAEME and trained as a Vehicle Mechanic. In June 1968 he was sent to South Vietnam and posted to 3rd Cavalry Regiment Light Aid Detachment. On 15 July 1968, 5 days after his 24th birthday, Doug was travelling on one of the APCs when it hit a land mine. He was killed and became the first RAEME Soldier to be killed in action in Vietnam. His body was returned to Australia and was buried in the Stirling Cemetery on 25 July 1968 (Gravesite 27A). There was no indication Doug was Killed in Action until 2003 (the 35th Anniversary) when our Association, with the permission of the family, arranged for the installation of an additional Bronze "Remembrance Plaque" that explained Doug was actually Killed in Action.

In early 2018 (the 50th Anniversary of Doug's Death) Bob Killoran, one of our Association Executive Committee, suggested it would be fitting if we did something to remember the occasion.

After some discussion, viewing the gravesite and checking with the council and family it was decided we should look at installing an Information Sign (similar to an existing one in the cemetery for a VC winner so he is in good company).

Unfortunately getting permission and the manufacture organised was not possible in 2018 so the all-important Dedication Service took place on Saturday 21st September 2019.

THE DEDICATION SERVICE

About 50 people attended the service, in cold, wet and windy conditions (with a short patch of sunshine during the significant part of the service). The attendees included Association members, some of Doug's family, his school friends and other locals who were all keen participants.

Parade Commander: MAJ Richard Moyses

Chaplain: Chaplain Mark Dickens

Sign and Plaque Co-ordinators: Geoff (now deceased) & Irene Parker (including design, manufacture of the Information Board and refurbishment of our original 2003 plaque).

Unveiling: Bob Killoran and Doug Pammenter (both Vietnam veterans)

Catafalque Party: Army Cadets from Sacred Heart College (Megan Blyth, Eadi Venning-Smith, Ben Hyde and Blake Magain-Mills (Organised and trained by Don Harvy)

Funding Assistance: Govt of SA, Veterans SA and installation by Adelaide Hills Council

The majority of attendees moved to the Aldgate RSL for coffee and a sausage sizzle after the service.





MAJ Moses



Chaplain Dickens & MAJ Moses



Catafalque Party



Doug Pammenter(L) and Bob Killoran



Bob Killoran, Doug Pammenter and MAJ Moses

MAJ Moses final comment "This may be just a sign, but everyone here today understands what actually stands behind it, and what it means, and I am confident those who walk past in the future will pause and reflect on the significant sacrifice made by Craftsman Douglas Graham Borlace"



RAEME Association of SA



DON'T FORGET OUR AGM

**JOIN US AND THEN STAY ON
FOR OUR CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
(see page 10)**

***This is your chance to have a say about how
the association is run and
make suggestions of other things we can do.***

**To be held at the West Adelaide Football Club
57 Milner Road, Richmond
*Plenty of onsite parking available***

DATE Saturday 2nd December 2023

TIME 10.30am

Attending the AGM does not mean that you will automatically find yourself on the committee. Most of the current committee members have indicated that they are willing to stand again, but new committee members are always welcome.



Committee meetings are held Tri-monthly at Plympton Glenelg RSL, currently on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm (the date/time is subject to the agreement of the Committee members who are elected). The meetings are of a relaxed, informal nature and quite enjoyable.

Remember, the committee represents YOU and the AGM is your opportunity to raise anything you would like to see the Association do or stop doing, the committee welcomes new ideas, and we are always looking for better ways to do things.

NOTE:

**The Notice of an AGM, Agenda and 2022 AGM Minutes
will be forwarded to members in early November.**



RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

c/- 10 Oliver Street
REYNELLA S.A.
Phone 0412 021 411

You are cordially invited to attend the
2023 RAEME CORPS BIRTHDAY

Help us CELEBRATE RAEME's Birthday on
Saturday 2nd December 2023 at

West Adelaide Football Club

57 Milner Road, Richmond
Plenty of on-site parking available

After the AGM (approx. 12.00noon)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WELCOME

Neat casual attire

Meals: Extensive a la carte menu (including seniors)

Drinks: Available from the bar

Members, guests, friends, and family are all welcome

Vast array of raffle prizes to be won

Central Region "RAEME Soldier of the Year" Awards to be announced.

✂.....

RSVP by Friday 24th November 2023

Please forward returns to: Don Harvy
10 Oliver Street, REYNELLA SA 5161
Or phone 0412 021 411
email raeme.sa.association@gmail.com

I.....will/will not be attending the RAEME Birthday function

Total number of persons attending (including children).....

All Welcome

Invite any RAEME/REME Brethren and their family/friends.

INTRODUCING THE NEW REPRESENTATIVE COLCOMDT- RAEME BRIG ED SMEATON, DSM.

We are very pleased to announce that Brigadier Edward Smeaton, DSM, was appointed Representative Colonel Commandant – RAEME in April 2023 Here is a little about BRIG Smeaton and his plans for the role.

Brigadier Smeaton was born in Rylstone, country NSW. He entered the Royal Military College in 1989, graduating in June 1990 into the Corps of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Brigadier Smeaton served in a variety of regimental positions including as a junior officer with the 16th Air Defence Regiment Workshop, 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment, and 1st Recruit Training Battalion. He also served in 7th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), 5th Aviation Regiment and 1st Combat Engineer Regiment. His command appointments included Commanding Officer 1st Combat Service Support Battalion and Commander of the Force Support Group / Chief of Staff 17th Combat Service Support Brigade.



Brigadier Smeaton's staff appointments spanned force structure development at Land and Army Headquarters and career management within the Directorate of Officer Career Management-Army. He also contributed to Combat Service Support interoperability within the ABCANZ Armies' Program Office in Washington, DC and to Army's land materiel maintenance reform as Director Plan Centaur.

Brigadier Smeaton's operational service includes Operation Catalyst as the Officer Commanding of the Force Level Logistic Asset and Operation Slipper as Commanding Officer of the Force Support Unit, both in the Middle East. In 2019-2020 he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Highroad as the Commander of the Australian Task Group and Deputy Branch Head Operational Sustainment in the NATO mission. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership of the national task group and his contribution to the sustainment of the Afghan forces. Brigadier Smeaton holds a Master of Management in Defence Studies and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. He is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College (2004) and the United States Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy (2016).

Brigadier Smeaton and his wife Simone have three children and together they enjoy travelling, cycling, and being outdoors. He is currently employed with Aspen Medical as the General Manager - Supply Chain.

Brigadier Smeaton advises: *"It's a great honour to be appointed as the Corps' Representative Colonel Commandant and I am very much looking forward to working with all members of the Corps, both past and present, in this capacity. We have a very proud history and our exceptionally experienced Colonel Commandants across the regions are an excellent connection to the traditions of the Corps. I hope to continue to build upon the strong networks across our Corps and our esprit de corps, bringing the experience of the past to assist with the challenges of the future."*

Arte et Marte

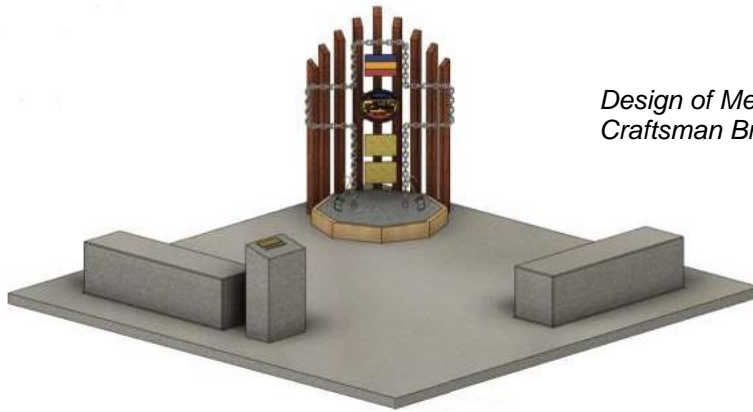
Ed Smeaton DSC

BRIG (Retd)

Representative Colonel Commandant

From our Queensland RAEME Bretheren

Recovery Mechanics Memorial - Dotswood NQ



Design of Memorial for WO2 Ryan Leslie and Craftsman Brendon Payne

WO2 Ryan Leslie and Craftsman Brendon Payne, two superb soldiers tragically died while serving their country on a military exercise in the Townsville Field Training Area on 30 August 2021.

We mentioned this appeal in our last edition and are pleased to advise that the goal of \$40,000 has been achieved. The organising committee would like to sincerely thank the over 400 private and corporate donors who gave from \$5 to \$5000 towards the fund. The two raffles run in Brisbane and Townsville raised just under \$2000.

Work on the memorial has now been completed and it was formally unveiled by the families of WO2 Leslie and Craftsman Payne, supported by ADF senior officers and local dignitaries, on **Wednesday 30th August 2023**: the second anniversary of the accident.

Ryan and Brendon were very well-loved by both their families, friends and their military comrades.

The permanent memorial rest-stop at the accident site, is set off to the side of the Dotswood / Mingela Road in a safe location to allow people to stop and reflect. The memorial consists of a bespoke designed wooden memorial facade, designed and built by RAEME personnel, carrying plaques for Ryan and Brendon. This will be placed into a concrete foundation. A hard-wearing, concrete seat will then be provided for people to sit on when they visit, and a weather-proof box will be included for people to leave notes and messages for the soldiers and their families.

The designs were developed in very close conjunction with Ryan and Brendon's wives, and with their close family.



Construction of the Memorial