



# AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

25 Deepdene Crescent  
O'HALLORAN HILL SA 5158  
Phone: (08) 8381 3644

## JULY 2002 NEWSLETTER

Patron - Honorary COLCOMDT (RAEME) Central, Southern & Tasmanian Regions  
COL Jack Wilson

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

#### Executive Officers

President	- Mike Culley	Ph: 8294 3820
Vice President	- Grant Kuchel	Ph: 8305 7023 (work)
Secretary	- David Turner	Ph: 8381 3644 (after hours)
Treasurer	- Keith Tainsh	Ph: 8326 2581

#### Ordinary Officers

- Dutchy Holland	Ph: 8294 4401	- John Howard	Ph: 8447 7681
- Eddy Kaminski	Ph: 8261 1446	- Bob Killoran	Ph: 8270 2222
- Frank Owen	Ph: 8384 7291	- David Renshaw	Ph: 8270 4207

#### Auditors

- Robin Maslen OAM	Ph: 8296 2768	- George Robinson	Ph: 8272 9872
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#### Association Historian

- Eddy Kaminski Ph: 8261 1446

AEME RAEME Association of South Australia Inc. Web Site

[www.diggerz.org/users/raasa](http://www.diggerz.org/users/raasa)

#### Webmaster

- Wayne Birch e-mail [wbirch@adam.com.au](mailto:wbirch@adam.com.au)



**Fort Largs Gun Work Party**

Dear Members,

I apologise for the lateness of this Newsletter. It should have been out in mid June in time to advise details of the 2002 Reserve Forces Day celebrations. However, the Committee of Management decided, as 2002 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Corps, to wait until the date had been set for the Birthday/Back-to-RAEME celebrations. Although the actual Birthday is 1 December, the date has been set at Sunday 10 November, because this is the closest date we could arrange. Most of the Units based at Warradale Barracks, including Maintenance Company, will be involved with Exercise "Rhino Charge", which runs from 23 November to 8 December. **Please mark the date in your diary and be there to celebrate this important Birthday celebration.** Further details will be in the September Newsletter.

Mike Culley, our President, has been on the sick list for quite a while now. Apparently the cells inside one of his eyes have suddenly started to reject the retina. He has now had four operations to try to correct the problem. He is quite well otherwise, however he is very tired by the end of the day. He is facing the real possibility of losing the sight in one eye. Unfortunately, he does not know whether the same thing will happen with the other eye, leaving him totally blind. He would like to continue as a member of the Committee of Management. However, if the sight in one eye cannot be saved, he will be less available as he wants to see more of Australia while he still can. He is quite cheerful in himself so please feel free to give him ring at home.

Bob Killoran will also be taking a less active role in the Committee of Management because his wife has recently been diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer.

#### DIARY DATES 2002

<u>Activity/Function</u>		<u>Date</u>	
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday	3	August
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday	15	August
- 2002 WO/SNCO/Officer Formal Dinner	Saturday	7	September
- RAEME Lunch	Tuesday	10	September
- RAEME Corps Seminar & Dinner	Wednesday/Friday	16/18	October
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday	17	October
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday	2	November
- 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday/"Back-to-RAEME" Reunion	Sunday	10	November
- Annual General Meeting	Sunday	15	December

#### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on **Thursday 15 August** at 7:30 pm in the **Warradale Area Sergeants' Mess** (southern side of the oval, first building from the south west corner). All members are very welcome.

#### 2002 CENTRAL REGION RAEME OFFICER/WO/SNCO FORMAL DINNER 2002

The Senior RAEME Representative Central Region, MAJ Martin Griffiths, is organising a Formal Dinner for serving and ex-serving RAEME ARA and GRES Officers, WOs and SNCOs.

The Dinner will be held in the **Officers' Mess at Woodside Barracks on Saturday 7 September 2002.**

Official Guests will include the Deputy Head of Corps, LTCOL Mike Barry, Honorary COLCOMDT Southern and Central Regions, COL Jack Wilson, the new SO2 Corps, MAJ Graham Anderson and MAJ Doug Gammon, now retired.

Timings are 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. There will be a bus from Keswick Barracks SGTs' Mess leaving at 5:45 pm. Accommodation will be available.

It is hoped that the RAEME Corps Banner and the RAEME Corps Centrepiece will be present for the occasion. **An Invitation with all the details is attached to this Newsletter.**

### RAEME LUNCH

Fred Brown has advised that the next luncheon will be held in the **Cremorne Hotel at 12:00 pm on Tuesday 10 September 2002**. The function is open to all serving and ex-serving RAEME personnel, not just those who served in Adelaide Workshop Company or Central Command Workshop. So, if you know of other ex-RAEME personnel, please bring them along. As it is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Corps, let's see a good number at the pub to help celebrate. **Please ring Fred (8297 7408) or Max Adams (8296 6463) before Friday 6 September 2002 so they can let the pub know how many to cater for!**

### RAEME CORPS SEMINAR

The RAEME Corps Seminar will be held at the **Bandiana Central Instructional Facility from 16 to 18 October 2002**.

Activities will include a Key Note Address, presentations on a wide range of Corps issues, separate working/discussion groups on specific areas of interest, an All Ranks Function, a WO/SNCO Corps Regimental Dinner and an Officers Corps Regimental Dinner.

For more information contact MAJ Graham Anderson on phone (02) 6055 4308.

### 2002 RAEME BIRTHDAY/BACK-TO-RAEME FUNCTION

A Function to celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the formation of the Corps will be held in the **Other Ranks Canteen at Warradale Barracks on Sunday 10 November 2002**.

The function will commence at 10:00 am and there will be a BBQ Lunch. The Function will conclude at 2:00 pm.

An Invitation with all the details will be attached to the September Newsletter, so **mark the date in your diary now!!!!!!!**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the **Workshop at Maintenance Company, Warradale Barracks, on Sunday 15 December 2002**.

You should note that our current Vice President, Grant Kuchel, a member of the Regular Army, will be stepping down because he will be posted to Melbourne in January 2003.

**Please give serious consideration to giving some of your time by becoming a member of the Committee of Management in 2003.** We meet bi-monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. The meetings are of a relaxed, informal nature include plenty of social chitchat. Please let me know if you are interested.

If you have any items for the Agenda, would you please let me have them, in writing, by Sunday 2 November 2002. The Committee of Management will then set the Agenda and post out the Notice of AGM so you receive it at least three weeks before the AGM, as per the "Statement of Purposes and Rules".

### HEAD OF CORPS

Contact List				
Name	Appointment	Phone	Fax	E-mail
LTCOL Mike Barry	DHOC	(02) 6055 4689	(02) 6055 4281	<a href="mailto:Mike.barry@defence.gov.au">Mike.barry@defence.gov.au</a>
MAJ Graham Anderson	SO2 Corps RAEME	(02) 6055 4308	(02) 6055 4165	<a href="mailto:Graham.anderson@defence.gov.au">Graham.anderson@defence.gov.au</a>
WO1 Dave Packer	Corps RSM	(02) 6055 4031	(02) 6055 4281	<a href="mailto:Kingsley.packer@defence.gov.au">Kingsley.packer@defence.gov.au</a>
Mr.Wayne Allan	National Technical Training Manager	(02) 6055 4323	(02) 6055 4281	<a href="mailto:Wayne.allan@defence.gov.au">Wayne.allan@defence.gov.au</a>
MAJ Gerry Stow	SO2 EME Trade Management	(02) 6055 4448	(02) 6055 4165	<a href="mailto:Gerry.stow@defence.gov.au">Gerry.stow@defence.gov.au</a>

- Courtesy "RAEME Head of Corps Newsletter" June 2002 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

## FAREWELL ON YOUR RETIREMENT - MAJ Doug Gammon OAM

It gives me much pleasure to write a few words as a tribute to the longest serving member of the Corps and Corps Icon MAJ Doug Gammon, in recognition of his most inestimable contribution. Doug predates just about all personnel, weapons and equipment currently in service in the Australian Army. Doug is known to pretty much every member of the Corps one way or another. Be it from his 26 years as a tradesman and artificer in the fitter armament stream, his 6 years as an officer in the ARA, his 8 years as a PT member or his dedicated work as editor of the Corps journal and Corps heritage custodian. During the past 5 years Doug has made a most valuable contribution to the preservation of Corps heritage, Corps contribution to the Bandiana Army Museum, the Corps Craftsman Memorial, and has done an outstanding job as editor of the RAEME Craftsman magazine.

Doug joined the Army as a 16<sup>th</sup> class Army Apprentice in 1961. During his time at Balcombe he was joined by such Corps notables as Apprentice R.L.G Grant (to become BRIG Grant AM, DEME), Apprentice John "Jack" Lord (MAJ Lord 1961-2001), Apprentice Kearsley (COL Kearsley AM), Apprentice Harry Percival (MAJ Percival). Doug's record-of-service reads like a short story and I can say from first hand experience his fireside yarns of his experiences would make for a box office mini series, albeit suitable for restricted audience only.

Doug served in Vietnam in 1971 with 12 FD REGT LAD mainly working in Fire Support Bases maintaining the 105 mm M2A2 guns. Doug was awarded an OAM in 1984 in recognition of his outstanding service to Army Apprentice training at 1 Base Workshop Battalion.

The old adage "behind every good man is the support of a good woman" (in this case women) is certainly true for Doug. Doug's wife Joyce and daughters Stacey and Kelly have been a pillar of support to him and not withstanding the challenges life throws at raising a family, Doug has been equally blessed in his domestic life as he has in his service life. Between them Doug and Joyce have raised two charming daughters, one of whom has recently provided Doug his first grandchild, and apple of his eye, Zoe.

There is no doubt MAJ Doug Gammon will be sorely missed by the Corps. The legacy of his Corps Spirit, his dedication to the Corps and his irrepressible energy will remain long after he has hooked up the caravan and circumnavigated this large continent of ours, as is his want.

Doug, on behalf of all the members of the Corps I wish you and Joyce all the very best for your retirement, and if you can secure a leave pass from your grandparent duties we wish you all the best for your travels.

- *Courtesy "RAEME Craftsman" Issue No.48 Winter 2002*

## 2002 RAEME MIXED ANZAC REUNION

The function, which was held in the Warradale Other Ranks' Canteen, was a financial success as well as a social success with approximately 90 people attending. Thanks go to the following people who helped make the evening a success:

Maintenance Company 9CSSB provided the necessary stores and two Bar Persons. We sincerely thank the OC, MAJ Ian Cartland, and the EME WO, WO2 Grant Kuchel for their assistance, and LCPL Nathan Morton and PTE R Freeman for their friendly assistance behind the Bar. PMC of Warradale Other Ranks' Canteen, CPL Rob Hancock, allowed us to use the Canteen for our Function, and ran the Bar. Set up on Saturday morning proceeded smoothly, thanks to the efforts of John Howard, Grant Kuchel, Frank Owen, David Renshaw and Keith Tainsh. David Renshaw arranged for the Association to borrow a Trailer BBQ from the Serco Social Club. Thanks go to the President, Ian Gonsalves, and to David and Eric Kelly who cooked the BBQ. Frank Owen took money on the Door, and recited the "Ode". Grant Kuchel personally organised and delivered stores to and from the "Workshop", and organised the "Power Point" presentation prior to the Service. Keith Tainsh organised the meat, salads and condiments, and sold Raffle Tickets all evening. Keith reports that the profit from the evening totalled \$275:50. The Committee of Management welcomes any comments, positive or negative, because we consider this function is the most important on our calendar.

## ANZAC DAY 2002

A grey overcast day greeted us as we assembled in Pultney Street. As the President was on the sick list, Adj Lee took control of leading the March, with Bob Killoran and myself as Association Banner carriers. This year the Unit Signs and Colour Patches were carried by youths from the Police Group.

Only 45 members marched this year, down on previous years, one of our marchers was the sister of CFN Borlace, the first CFN killed in Vietnam. The Association organised a vehicle to carry non-marchers, by the time the March started we had seven passengers.

The weather held off until we finished our March, and then over to TTD for after March refreshments. The RSL did a splendid job getting it set up. There were several good food stalls about, numerous bars, coffee trailers (not everybody drinks beer), and a mobile stage that bands played on during the afternoon (a vast improvement on previous years).

After getting our strength back, several of our members adjourned to the SGTs Mess at Keswick Barracks for the general after March activities and a good feed.

A good day had by all.

*Dutchy Holland*

P.S. The bands still have not got it **RIGHT**!!!!!!!

## RESERVE FORCES DAY 2002

A Service of Remembrance and Commemoration to celebrate 202 years of service to Australia by the Reserve Forces was held at the Reserve Forces Memorial, situated on the Pathway of Honour (behind Government House) at 10:00 am on Sunday 7 July 2002. Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC, CVO, MBE, Governor of South Australia, attended. Afterwards the Governor inspected the Reserve Forces Recruiting displays on the Torrens Parade Ground.

July weather can be a bit hit and miss. Unlike last year where there was warm sunshine, it was overcast and foggy, but at least it did not rain, although there was a "lazy wind" blowing from the north. There appeared to be about 200 people in attendance. Association members I ran into included Brian Holmes, John Howard and Greg Rosser.

Moving the Celebration from 1 July to the first Sunday in July means that more serving and ex-serving people could attend because it is not a working day.

CPL Ray (Barra) Schmidtke (an Association member) from Maintenance Company showed me around the new Unimog Medium Recovery Vehicle which recently replaced the International Twin Boom recovery vehicle. 10/27 Battalion Royal South Australia Regiment had a display of small arms to play with (padlocked to chains) including a Steyr semi automatic rifle and a Minimi light machine gun. 48 Field Battery's display included a Hamel gun. 3/9 Light Horse (South Australia Mounted Rifles) displayed an M113 armoured personnel carrier.

## ANZAC APPEAL BADGES

Fred Brown has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to all AEME/RAEME members and Vietnam Veterans who bought one of his Badges. Donations from the evening totalled \$173:45. He has asked me to assure you that Fred and Edna will be there next year. So, if you were unlucky enough to miss out on the opportunity to "purchase" a badge this year, there will be plenty available next year. You only have to ask him, if he doesn't ask you first!!!!

## NAVAL GUNS AT FORT LARGS (RESTORATION PROJECT)

John Howard and I attended a Work Party on 4 May and greased and exercised the Guns.

We had an extra work party on 6 July to remove the top plate from the northern Gun to inspect and clean the ball-bearings and race. Fortunately Grant Kuchel was able to borrow a porta-power kit from a mate and he also brought a digital camera with him. With some of our ugly mugs it was a wonder we didn't break it for him.

The top plate came off with some difficulty. Just once it would be nice to have a task that is straight forward and presents no problems. The securing bolt heads, most likely from the build up of paint and old burrs, were slightly too large for the ¾ inch square drive sockets. The socket

fitted the other Gun OK but some filing on the flats of the bolts and the flats of an OE spanner so it fitted enabled the bolts to be removed eventually. As this Gun will traverse under the hand-wheel (after an initial push on the barrel to "break the seal") it was rather surprising to discover that the ball-bearings were in a worse state than the southern Gun. They were all corroded as expected but one was in several pieces and a few of them had well developed flat spots. We cleaned out the race of most of the dried grease and filled it with a oil/dieso mixture which we hope will help to lift the scale at our next Work Party on 3 August.

My thanks to the usual crew of Mike Culley, John Howard, Graham Janz, Lindsay Johnson and Peter Schumann, and to Grant for twisting the arm of a mate for the porta-power and as photographer extraordinaire - well I might need some more photos later!!

*Keith Tainsh*

### WEB SITE ADDRESSES

AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc: <http://diggerz.org/users/raasa>  
 AEME/RAEME Association - ACT: <http://users.netinfo.com.au/~lwedd/raeme5.html>  
 The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc: <http://www.nex.net.au/users/vraeme>  
 The RAEME Association of WA Inc: <http://www.redbackwebs.com.au/raemewa/index.html>  
 The RAEME Association of QLD: [http://www.geocities.com/raeme\\_association](http://www.geocities.com/raeme_association)  
 102 Field Workshop: <http://www.users.bigpond.com/redotter/102.html>  
 National Service Association: <http://www.nasho.asn.au>  
 Vietnam Veterans Federation: <http://www.webmaster.net.au/vvf>  
 Department of Defence: <http://www.defence.gov.au>  
 Australian/Commonwealth Honours: <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au>

### THE ARMY MUSEUM

#### Corps Shop Bandiana

#### RAEME

#### OTHER ITEMS

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

History Book	\$ 45:00	Corps Plaques for		Hats, cloth with Museum	
Tie	\$ 25:00	RAAMC, RAANC	\$ 35:00	pictured on front	\$ 7:00
Tie Pin	\$ 6:50	Stubby holders for		Hats, Suede with Army	
Coaster (pewter)	\$ 11:00	RAAMC, RAANC,		History Unit logo	\$ 15:00
Thermal mugs	\$ 16:00	RAADC, VIETNAM,		Key rings, assorted	\$ 3:50
Stubby holders	\$ 7:00	UNITED NATIONS,		Army Apprentice badges	
Plaque	\$ 35:00	MUSEUM LOGO,		(collar & hat)	\$ 5:00
Prince Philip Banner		AUST ARMY RISING SUN,			
Print (unframed)	\$ 5:00	ARMY			
Prince Philip Banner		APPRENTICES	\$ 7:00		
First Day Cover	\$ 2:50	Thermal mugs for			
Diary of Capt B.Dittmar		RAAMC, RAADC	\$ 16:00		
while on duty in					
South Vietnam 1968	\$ 5:00				
Arts Lapel Badge					
& Tie Tack	TBA				

For further enquiries phone *The Army Museum Bandiana* on (02) 6055 2525, Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm or fax them on (02) 6055 2886. The prices include GST, they do not include postage and handling.

- Courtesy "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" Issue No.45 Summer 2000/2001

MEMBERSHIPNew Members

On behalf of the Association, I would like to welcome the following new Members:

Nicholas Cashman	Scott Fishlock	Don Harvy
7/9 Edwards Street	74 Marshall Terrace	10 Oliver Street
BRIGHTON SA 5048	BROOKLYN PARK SA 5032	REYNELLA SA 5161
Bob Matthews		
22 Alfred Road		
WEST CROYDON SA 5008		

Subs are due as at 1 July in the year your membership is "current to" ie if the date on your Membership Card is 2002, your Subs are now due and a green "reminder slip" is included with this Newsletter. Subs are still \$5 for one year or any multiple thereof eg \$20 for four years. You will need to be financial to vote at the AGM, which will be held in December.

According to my records, the following persons are financial members of the Association. The number in brackets is the year your membership is "current to".

Honorary Life Members

John Bicknell, Reg Glass, Dutchy Holland, David Turner

Ordinary Members

Walter Ade (2002), Sharen A'Hang (2002), Milton Ahrens (2005), Ernest Atkinson (2003), Peter Badcock (2005), Joe Barton (2003), Howard Bergstrom MBE (2003), Wayne Birch (2002), John Black (2006), Helmut Bohn (2003), David Brand (2003), Bob Brown (2003), Fred Brown (2003), Ian Burgess (2003), Roger Burzacott (2003), Nicholas Cashman (2006), Chris Castle (2003), Trevor Clerke (2003), Geoff Coat (2003), Don Collins (2002), John Corkran (2003), Brian Cox (2002), Peter Cox (2003), George Craig (2003), Mike Culley (2003), Bob Davis (2003), Graham de la Rue (2005), Chris Duffield (2003), Robert Duffield (2002), Nick Ebbs (2006), Bluey Etheridge (2003), Kym Everett (2004), Andrew Ferguson (2003), Jim Fisher (2003), Scott Fishlock (2003), Brian Flavel (2006), Jan Gancarz (2005), Bob Gell (2002), Nick Gogilis (2005), Steve Gough (2006), Robert Grant (2002), Merv Grose (2002), Robert Hansford (2002), Jock Hart (2004), Don Harvy (2006), Arthur Hasse (2003), Brenton Hawkett (2003), Greg Hay (2005), Norm Hay (2004), Colin Haynes (2002), Viv Helps (2004), Andrew Hobson (2002), Brian Holmes (2003), Darryl Horner (2002), John Howard (2005), Gary Howell (2004), Tony Ivens (2003), Graham Janz (2003), Jeff Johns (2002), Lindsay Johnson (2002), Michael Johnstone (2003), Eddy Kaminski (2006), Eric Kelly (2004), Bob Killoran (2003), Bob King (2002), Les Kovacs (2004), Grant Kuchel (2003), Les Lavis (2002), Alf Lee (2006), Lou Leeuwrik (2003), Ken Lorraine (2005), Greg Lowe (2003), Chris Macintosh (2002), A.D.Marks (2003), Trevor Martin (2002), Robin Maslen OAM (2002), Bob Matthews (2003), Bill May (2005), Fred McInerney (2002), Philip McKelliff (2002), Pete McKenzie (2003), Gordon Mead (2005), Jake Meaney (2004), Don Morgan OAM (2003), Richard Moyses (2002), Barry Naulty (2003), Ian Nicholls (2003), Gary Nicolescu (2003), Murray Nitschke (2005), Bluey Nobes (2005), Jim Nurse (2005), Dave O'Brien (2005), Alex Oschmanns (2003), Mick O'Toole (2004), Frank Owen (2003), John Owen (2004), John Page (2002), Dick Pahl (2002), Dick Pailthorpe (2003), Doug Pammenter (2002), Nick Papanikolaou (2002), Geoff Parker (2003), Trevor Parrott (2002), Roger Parsons (2006), Greg Payne (2002), R. Payne (2003), Lionel Penley (2004), John Raftery (2003), Harry Ralph (2003), Hank Ramm (2002), Lionel Renfrey (2003), Dave Renshaw (2006), Peter Reynolds (2002), George Robinson (2002), William Robinson (2002), Bill Roch (2003), Greg Rosser (2003), Ray Ryan (2003), Perry Sangster (2005), Brian Sayers (2003),



Barra Schmidtke (2003), Glendon Shaw (2003), Dave Shelly (2002), Harold Shipp (2003), Robert Silcock (2002), Victor Sobotnik (2002), Walter Soroka (2006), Max Sparrow (2004), Debbie Spicer (2005), Ian Starick (2002), Murray Stock (2002), Donald Sutherland (2006), James Szpunar (2008), Keith Tainsh (2003), Michael Tamassy (2002), Ian Taylor (2003), Paul Teague (2005), Simon Telleria (2003), Howard Terry (2003), Noel Thomas (2002), Dick Tischer (2007), Donald Tremethick (2003), Joe Tuckwell (2003), Shane Venning (2002), Bruce Watson (2003), Bruce Waye (2003), Graham West OAM (2002), Richard Williams (2002), Warren Williams (2002), Alan Wilson (2004), Betty Winstanley (2004), Pat Wright (2002), Brian Yelds (2003), John Zander (2004), Pete Zander (2002).

#### Associate Members

Marg Culley (2002), Anne-Michelle Howell (2006), Joan Lorraine (2002), Judy Turner (2003).

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please inform me or a member of the Committee of Management of any Change of Address. This will ensure that you receive the latest copy of the Newsletter.

#### VALE

WO1 Brian PETERSEN 18578 - 21 November 2001

WO2 Kenneth Stanley RAMSAY - 30 April 2001

MAJ Harry PERCIVAL - 17 November 2001

WO2 W.G.H. (Slim) TURNER

- *Courtesy "RAEME Craftsman" Issue No.48 Winter 2002*

Gordon James (Jim) BUMAN - 21 February 2002

Arnie SCHELLAR - 27 May 2002

John NEWTON - 2002

- *Courtesy "RAEME Association NSW Inc. Newsletter" Issue 101 June 2002*

ARTE et MARTE

(Corps Motto: With Skill and Fighting)

*David Turner*

*Hon. Secretary*