

The Horse's Mouth

RAEME Association WA - NEWSLETTER - November 2013 Edition

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What The Prez Sez

A couple of issues to address; firstly the debacle with the contact list. I take full responsibility for the mix up and loss of the membership sheet post ANZAC Day. I apologise for any inconvenience and doubts in your association's ability to care for your association that may have risen because of this. Moving forward; there will be processes put in place to ensure that there will not be a reoccurrence. I reassure you that no funds have gone missing, only the list of those who had paid their fees.

Update on the RAEME National Association (RNA): The RNA is established and is growing; the aim of the RNA is to provide a national framework to provide support to the state associations as well as the serving members of our Corps.

The RNA is developing a webpage which will form the central hub

for each of the states. A joint webpage will reduce costs and management fees, also providing a single source of information reducing replication. Down the track, it will also give the associations buying power for merchandise and memorabilia.

The Corps History Project (CHP) History book is well under way. It is now into the editing stages with approximately 500 hours already spent on research, review and editing. The CHP team is looking to find additional information at ALTC museum for some theatres that have not had much response. Planned completion date for the CHP book is 01 Dec 2014.

The high volume of information that was received for the CHP has prompted a team at Vic Bks to develop a repository of photos and documents to preserve this material in a secure electronic format, ensuring that it is properly catalogued for the CHP, and with the intention to make this information available in the future for everyone.

Also, there is a competition running to find a photo of tradesmen on the job to replace the Vietnam vintage Centurion pack change picture. This picture will be the cover sleeve for the CHP book and there is a \$500 prize.

Getting with the times: in order to keep in touch with the next generation of association members, a facebook page has been established. Get on it and get in touch with mates all over the country, its great for a laugh.

We have decided to change the AGM up to an evening event, to encourage partners to come out for a meal and to get involved. The current plan is to hold the AGM at the Melbourne Hotel assemble at 1730h for 1800h AGM followed by dinner.

RAEME birthday / ASM's golf day will be a combined event incorporating 13 BDE, SASR and the Association. This event will be subsidised by a DVA grant and if well supported and attended could become an annual event.

All good.

Wez

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the WA branch of the RAEME Association will be held in the Colonial Room, Melbourne Hotel (Corner of Milligan and Hay streets, Perth) at 1800 hours on Friday 15th November 2013. There will be a bar operating and meals will be available at very reasonable prices at the completion of the meeting.

Members are reminded that this is YOUR Association and your attendance is required. Come along and support those who are prepared to work hard so that you can enjoy organised functions such as RAEME Birthday, ANZAC Day, etc.

Please Note - ALL committee positions will be vacated and a new committee elected at the AGM

DON'T FORGET - 1800 HOURS ON FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2013

****** Act on it now ******

RAEME

Birthday

29th November 2013

Celebrations for the Corps birthday this year will be a different format than in previous years. This year, a sports day has been organised to be followed by a birthday Bar B Q. The sports day is a 9 hole game of golf and the Bar B Q will immediately follow.

DETAILS

The sports day will be held at the **Wembley Golf Course**. Tee off time is 1330 hours. Please note that we are restricted in numbers for the golf day. A maximum of forty (40) people can play.

Following the golf day, there will food platters and dips and refreshments available to all.

To play golf and attend the after function it will cost you \$20.00



per head, which includes the buggy hire. Clubs are available for hire.

For those wishing to attend the after golf function only, the cost will be \$10.00 per head.

Contact Wade Apps on:

0416199 187

If you wish to partake in any or all of the activities.

This day has been subsidised by a grant allocated for the corps birthday celebrations.

DVA Access Centre Open

On Wednesday 1 May 2013, the new DVA WA Access Centre based at the Army Museum of Western Australia opened its doors. The Centre is within the Museum grounds, it is easily accessible by public and private transport, it has wheelchair access and there is free secure on site parking.

The Access Centre will be open from 11am to 4pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The Access Centre is a "one stop shop" providing written information and resources that cover a range of issues that may be of interest to current and former members of the Australian Defence Force.

These resources include information and claim forms from DVA, Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), information from a wide range of Federal and State agencies, and Health providers, and other Organisations that have links to the wider Defence Community.

DVA staff will be on site to answer general questions or to refer to more appropriate Agencies and will also be available to assist with any specific enquiries in a secure and confidential environment.

To make any enquiry regarding the Access Centre or to make a confidential booking, please call:

Mobile: 0411 269 908

Email: dc.wa.news@dva.gov.au

MEMORIAL INSTALLATION EDDIE NAUGHTON'S GRAVE KELLERBERRIN 6 Jul 13

After attending the funeral of my old mate Edward Hugh "Uncle Ed" Naughton in July 1998 I was shocked to hear a few years ago from locals that his grave in Kellerberrin Cemetery remained unmarked due to a series of sad events which followed soon after his burial. Ed was buried atop his parents but there is no plaque indicating his presence. This apparently came about due to the death of Eddie's partner only months after his passing before arrangements were completed for Ed's grave marking and onward benefactors in Melbourne had no knowledge of the incomplete grave.

In recent times Ed's veteran mates from 1 Armoured Sqn Wksp RAEME Nui Dat 1968 undertook to enhance Ed's grave by funding a bronze plaque similar to an entitled TPI DVA grave memorial.

With plaque and war graves concrete plinth in hand, ex National Serviceman Cfn Bob Tindall and myself installed the plinth on behalf of our Association on Ed's grave around high noon on Saturday 6 July and stayed on to toast Ed's RAEME service across the arvo as he would expect.

Ed Naughton saw early service around Puckapunyal as a Recovery Mechanic leading to a Sgt ARV Crew Commander at the Armoured Regt LAD before deployment in that role with 1 Armoured Squadron Workshop RAEME to Nui Dat, Vietnam in 1968. He was in the forefront of the battle for Fire Support Base BALMORAL atop his ARV across the two horrific NVA night assaults on the 3RAR position. He later saw service in Puckapunyal and Singapore before a final ARA appointment as SSM Tech Sup Sqn Armoured Regt before returning to WA after 26 years ARA service. Ed then enlisted in the ARES in WA and was appointed WO2 Subject Master T109 driver training at 5 Training Group until his compulsory retirement at age 55.

Ed had some rough hurdles in his life which took their toll in his closing years bringing on an early death at 63 years of age.

Norm Wells
VM Sgt EME Ops
1Armd Sqn Wksp Nui Dat 1968.
Mob 0417 945 157



Ed Naughton (rear of casket) was the IC Bearer Party at the State Funeral of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

During his tour of duty in South Vietnam, Uncle Ed was involved in another action that was not given any historical status. In fact it was an event to be forgotten.

Two officers, one from the Armoured Regiment and the other from 17 Construction Squadron laid a bet as to which vehicle, the Centurion ARV or a Caterpillar D8H bulldozer was the tougher and stronger piece of equipment.



To prove their point, a "Tug Of War" was held and the winner would be declared in a best of three pulls.

The ARV won the first pull, but had to retire hurt with a burnt out clutch.

The proverbial "Shit hit the fan" when the ARV was rendered U/S with many man hours of work needed to bring the equipment back into operation.

One thing was Certain, the RAEME diggers were not impressed by the rush need to rectify the u/s ARV.

BANNER UPDATE

The time has come for us to decide what should be embossed on our banner. The subject is on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting. If you have an interest in the wording, sequence, location of script etc, make sure that you attend the AGM and have your say.

Our corps of RAEME/AEME has served in various theatres of war which including:

WW11
Korea
Malaya
Borneo
Vietnam
East Timor
Iraq
Namibia
Somalia
Afghanistan

Upon investigating the AASM (Australian Active Service Medal) via the DVA website it was found that the following clasps have been issued for the medal:

Balkans	Cambodia	East Timor
ICAT	Iraq	Iraq 2003
Kuwait	Middle East	Namibia
Rwanda	Sierra Leone	Somalia
Vietnam 1975		
Korea	Malaya	Malaysia
Thailand	Thai-Malay	Vietnam

The decision that has to be made is - exactly what countries need to be embossed on our banner.

Please give this some thought and maybe some discussion prior to the AGM.

DVA INFORMATION

Some very interesting information for TPI pensioners from Rick Homes - Secretary of the RAAFVVA

I recently underwent the normal 12 monthly blood test, you know the drill, Cholesterol, liver function, prostate, sugar levels, brain and computer malfunction etc under my TPI Gold card.

Promptly received a bill from Dorevitch pathology for

\$43.50 being for PSA (Prostate) not recognised by medicare.

I called DVA to check and they gave me some good advice.

A phone number of 1300550457 for Provider info, i.e. if the provider is unsure of whether a service is chargeable to DVA ring this number for info.

Rang Dorevitch who immediately waived all charges and will bill DVA directly.

Geoff for the Newsletter please broadcast the help line number above.

Peter, you may wish to send to all sub branches who may be unaware.

Regards

*Rick Holmes
Secretary
RAAFVVA*

MURDER/SUICIDE??

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS President, Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994... The medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus, and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide.

He left a note to that effect indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly.

Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

The room on the ninth floor, where the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife, and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus.

When one intends to kill subject 'A', but kills subject 'B' instead, one is guilty of the murder of sub-

ject 'B.'

When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said they thought the shotgun was not loaded, the old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her.

Therefore, the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support, and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist...

Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. So the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

A true story from Associated Press.

GOD BLESS THE ENLISTED MAN

A U.S. Marine Colonel was about to start the morning briefing to his staff.

While waiting for the coffee machine to finish brewing, the colonel decided to pose a question to all assembled.

He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep. He posed the question of just how much of sex was "work" and how much of it was "pleasure?" A Major chimed in with 75%-25% in favor of work. A Captain said it was

50%-50%. A lieutenant responded with 25%-75% in favor of pleasure, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the colonel turned to the private who was in charge of making the coffee and asked for his opinion. Without any hesitation, the young private responded,

"Sir, it has to be 100%pleasure.The colonel was surprised and as you might guess, asked why?"

"Well, sir if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them".

The room fell silent.

God Bless the enlisted man!

Need to be seen or heard??

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