

“Boots”

‘The Australian boots were the best of any issued to the Allied forces.’

AB Paterson (‘The Banjo’)

We’ve travelled per Joe Gardiner, a humping of our swag
In the country of the Gidgee and Belar.

We’ve swum the Di’ mantina with our raiment in a bag,
And we’ve travelled per superior motor car,

But when we went to Germany we hadn’t any choice,
No matter what our training or pursuits,
For they gave us no selection ‘twixt a Ford or Rolls de Royce
So we did it in our good Australian boots.

They called us ‘mad Australians’; they couldn’t understand
How officers and men could fraternise,
They said that we were ‘reckless’, we were ‘wild, and out of hand’,
With nothing great or sacred to our eyes.

But on one thing you could gamble, in the thickest of the fray,
Though they called us volunteers and raw recruits,
You could track us passed the shell holes, and the tracks were all one way
Of the good Australian ammunition boots.

The Highlanders were next of kin, the Irish were a treat,
The Yankees knew it all and had to learn,
The Frenchmen kept it going, both in vict’ry and defeat,
Fighting grimly till the tide was on the turn.
And our army kept beside ‘em, did its bit and took its chance,
And I hailed our newborn nation and its fruits’
As I listened to the clatter on the cobblestones of France
Of the good Australian military boots.



The Role Of RAEME Is To :-

*" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

The Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the **RAEME Association** **of WA (Inc.)**

Autumn 2005

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at **7.00pm, Kings Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth, in Restaurant annex**. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6933

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 23rd of MAY 2005.

DISCLAIMER

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

From the President

Again twelve months have gone by, and soon we are having our Annual General Meeting to elect a new committee. This year I have decided not to stand again as your President, hoping that we can attract the younger set to take over. I would like to be just a member and see how others can perform.

It has not been a very good year, without a Corps Dinner again and of course very little attendance from members other than the regulars who turn up no matter what. It has been a total disappointment, not only for me but for the hard working members of the committee. We are trying to do our best, but

there is no backup from the many paid up members. Our aim to maintain fellowship between the serving and former members of our Corps and to establish and maintain social activities can only be fulfilled by helping each other and pulling together. If we don't do this our aim to keep up the ideals of the Corps will be lost. We need people with ideas and suggestions, if you have any let us have them. If more members come forward and become involved we should be able to arrange some get togethers with families and friends, so put on your thinking caps.

Our next AGM will be soon and we hope to attract some new faces on the

*Don't assume malice for what stupidity can explain.

*A penny saved is a government oversight.

*The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

*The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

*The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

*He who hesitates is probably right.

*If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

*If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

*The mind is like a parachute; it works much better when it's open.

Oh! Groan!

Anonymous is at it again. Somebody please get a lynch mob together!!!

1. How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit?

Unique Up On It.

2. How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit?

Tame Way, Unique Up On It.

3. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest?

They Take The Psycho Path

4. How Do You Get Holy Water?

You Boil The Hell Out Of It.

5. What Do Fish Say When They Hit a Concrete Wall?

Dam!

6. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting On The Ice too Long?

Polaroid's

7. What Do You Call a Boomerang That Doesn't work?

A Stick

8. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours?

Nacho Cheese.

9. What Do You Call Santa's Helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

10. What Do You Call Four Bullfighters In Quicksand?

Quattro Sinko.

11. What Do You Get From a Pampered Cow?

Spoiled Milk.

12. What Do You Get When You Cross a Snowman With a Vampire?

Frostbite.

13. What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches?

A Nervous Wreck.

14. What's The Difference Between Roast Beef And Pea Soup?

Anyone Can Roast Beef.

15. Where Do You Find a Dog With No Legs?

Right Where You Left Him.

16. Why Do Gorillas Have Big Nostrils?

Because They Have Big Fingers.

17. Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive?

Because It Scares The Dog.

18. What Kind Of Coffee Was Served On The Titanic?

Sanka.

19. Why Did Pilgrims' Pants Always Fall Down?

Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.

20. What's The Difference Between a Bad Golfer And a Bad Skydiver?

A Bad Golfer Goes, Whack, Dang!

A Bad Skydiver Goes Dang! Whack.

21. How Are a Texas Tornado And a Tennessee Divorce The Same?

Somebody's Gonna Lose A Trailer.

“How much is an ice cream sundae?” he asked.

“Fifty cents,” replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

“Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?” he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

“Thirty-five cents,” she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins.

“I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.

You see, he couldn’t have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4 - Fourth Important Lesson - The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king’s wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a

purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand!

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5 - Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When It Counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, “Yes, I’ll do it if it will save her.” As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the colour returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, “Will I start to die right away?”. Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Truisms

*There’s always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don’t hurt.

*When I’m feeling down, I like to whistle. It makes the neighbour’s dog run to the end of his chain.

committee. I hope to see many of you there at the usual place, Karrakatta.

Well this is it from me.

John Klein

President

(Arte et Marte)

Help! Help!

Due to a problem with sickness in our Association, we have lost all our Welfare and Pensions Officers and Advocates.

Brian Cooper, our “Top Flight” Advocate, had quite a serious accident just before Christmas and spent some time in Joondalup Hospital. He is now on the mend, but is not well enough to continue with the very valuable work he was doing. We were very glad to see him and know that he is on the mend. The Association wishes Brian all the very best for a speedy recovery.

Don Horsley, who has been a stalwart of the Association, unfortunately has had a number of Strokes. The last one saw him in Royal Perth Hospital for a week. Don is now at home being bossed around by Ruth and loving it. Seem to recall Don was talking about a whip somewhere. Seriously, Don, look after yourself and get well. You are one of the ones who hold us all together with your wit and fun loving nature. Ruth, don’t forget where that whip is and more importantly where the key is to the cupboard that houses the whip!

Our President, John Klein, has had illness sneak up on him and he has had a few problems. The advice to him was to cease working at the accelerated pace he has been, and to take things a bit easier. John has done so and the better for it. Tina sees him at home a little more often now. John we wish you a healthier life now and “Happy 77th Birthday”

Your’s Truly has also had a rather bad time and has been ordered to rest and stay away from the self induced stresses at DVA. Retirement from the Advocacy world has followed the Medical Specialists very stern warning. Clare is keeping a very tight rein on me and, hopefully, things will improve as time goes by.

Therefore, anyone out there who is interested in becoming a Welfare or Pension Officer or an Advocate for Veterans, let the Secretary know. He will do all the necessary arrangements for courses and other interesting things for you to do. It is a very worthwhile pursuit and can be very rewarding.

John

Aborted Dinner Last November

It was very disappointing to the committee, who went to a lot of trouble to organise a dinner, at a venue that we were sure all members of the Corps would be happy to attend (Sgt’s Mess Karrakatta). It was also very disappointing for those members who did pay their subscription to go to the dinner. We were 20 people short of having that function.

After we cancelled the dinner, 16 people contacted us around three days before the dinner date and asked if they could come. We could have stood the loss of four seats, but not the loss of 20. Needless to say, those who did pay are wondering if we are ever going to have another dinner. We have had to cancel two dinners in the past 3 years. The first cancellation was unavoidable because of the commitments the Government placed on the Army (2002). Many of the Corps members were on overseas service. However, there was no similar excuse for the dinner last November, apart from some Corps members having to compulsorily attend Army functions that

had been organised only a few weeks prior. The Association had written to all units requesting that the 27th of November be set aside in order that our Corps could celebrate our own Corps Birthday. Every letter received a reply in a positive sense. However, the information was not passed on to others who decided on compulsory functions at the last minute.

That now is history.

The thing that really hurts the Association is our reliance on the raffles held during the dinner to keep up our operating funds. We have set the subscription figure of \$15.00 per year to try to keep costs down for members. The raffle money is vital to help us survive. We did not receive raffle money in 2002 and just made it over the hump until funds started to come from subscriptions. This year, however, we have been forced to support the Association on a nest egg we used for things like the sausage sizzle and drinks at the AGM. We also had to dip into the funds we had to purchase memorabilia for the members (ties, tie pins, mugs, stubby coolers, etc). To coin a phrase, this is a disaster for the Association.

It is very sad to have to say that, another aborted dinner will see the funds of the Association go down even further to the point where the Association will not be viable. These functions are put on to raise the level of Esprit de Corps among all members of the Corps, not just the Old'n'Bold and RAEME Dinosaurs. We would dearly love to see some of the younger, still serving; members get involved with the Association and, possibly take over from us old foggies in the running of the Association. The groundwork has been done and many of us older members are getting tired, our ideas are stating to slow. An injection of young blood into the Association would see

grow and prosper far more than it is now.

We would love to have more functions, however, without the backing of the Corps members these, too, will fail. Once we organised a dinner, dance at the Cannington Dogs. Apart from the organisers we got 2 couples who wished to go. Not much support out of 250 members.

In the past year we have lost 60 members through moving house and not letting us know a forwarding address or failing to renew their subscription for whatever reason. If any person reading this article knows of someone who moved in the past year, ask them if they have sent us their change of address. If they haven't, remind them to do so. It is only when we get members who are willing to help can we be a true brotherhood. Our strength can go a long way towards helping us to help ourselves.

How's about it you guys. If you don't want to see the Association fold due to lack of funds and support, how's about giving it a go!

Arte et Marte
John

Army Apprentices

(Balcombe, Vic)

A 52 Year reunion of the 6th intake is planned to be held in WA in October 2005. Intakes 1 to 8 inclusive and later intakes are invited to attend. Contact **D. Hughes Ph 9397 0874**

101 FD WKSP Reunion

Could you put the details for the 101 FD WKSP reunion in your news letter. 101 FD WKSP unit reunion for all past and present members. Sorry no partners.

Ingleburn RSL on the 22 Oct 2005

way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine! That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

Funny letter

After numerous rounds of data ; We don't even know if Osama is still alive

Osama himself decided to send George W. a letter in his own handwriting to let him know he was still in the game.

Bush opened the letter and it appeared to contain a coded message:

370HSSV - 0773H.

Bush was baffled with the code so he e-mailed it to Colin Powell. Colin and his aides had no clue either so they sent it to the FBI. No one could solve it so it went to the CIA, on then to NASA, then the Secret Service.

With no clue as to it's meaning, they eventually asked Britain's MI6 for help.

'Q' cabled the White House as follows:

Tell the President he is holding the message upside down

Important Lessons

First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2 - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached..

It read:

"Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nat King Cole

3 - Third Important Lesson - Always Remember Those Who Serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

fermentation began again, of which a by product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them which meant

for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T", (Ship High In Transport) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word.

Neither did I. I always thought it was a golf term.

Jim's Life in the US

Jim is an expert when it comes to things about his own country.

Why It's Good To Drink Beer

Sometimes when I reflect on all the beer I drink I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, "It is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver. Babe Ruth

I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day. Lyndon B. Johnson

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading. Paul Hornung

24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not. L. Mencken

When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven! George Bernard Shaw

Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. Benjamin Franklin

Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer.

Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza. Dave Barry

BEER: HELPING UGLY PEOPLE HAVE SEX SINCE 3000 BC! W. C. Fields

Remember, "I" before "E", except in Budweiser. Professor Irwin Corey

To some it's a six-pack, to me it's a "support group." Salvation in a can! Leo Durocher

This is the best one!

One night at Cheers, Cliff Clavin explained the "Buffalo Theory" to his buddy Norm: "Well ya see, Norm, it's like this. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this

For more information contact **Gary Hodges / garyhodges148@msn.com 07 54444463**

Thanks
Gary Garfield Hodges

Full Accounting for Australian Servicemen Not Recovered From Viet Nam Petition

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for signing the on-line petition to the House of Representatives of the Australian Federal Parliament . . . BUT . . .

Since launching this petition I have been advised that electronic petitions (even if printed) are not acceptable to the House of Representatives. Hence the petition that is at <http://www.petitiononline.com/oah1966/petition.html> will go nowhere as it is.

However, our upper house, the Senate, will accept a petition signed electronically on the Internet if the Senator presenting the petition certifies that the petition has been duly posted with the text available to the signatories. Unfortunately, I have been informed that I am (therefore) not able to change the addressing of the above-mentioned petition to read "the Senate" without invalidating the petition.

The only option that I had was to post a new petition addressed to "the Senate" with the same argument in the body of the document. Therefore I have set up such a petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/oah2005/petition.html>

To catch the people who have been advised of the original petition and its associated URL, and who have not yet signed, I am trying to arrange to have a redirect put on the old petition URL to shunt potential signatories off to the new version.

About half of the folk who signed the original petition left a "non-private" e-mail address and it is those "non-private" addressees that are being used for this e-mail. (In the interests of not having your e-mail address stolen I have used the BCC Box for this e-mail.) At this stage we have no way of catching up with the other half who did not leave a "non-private" e-mail address. We need to catch up with these folk - and more.

Now here is the punch line and as usual, I am asking for your help. But firstly, I would like to offer my apologies for not having determined that the House of Representatives would not accept an electronic petition before launching one. To be honest, the thought that they would not accept an electronic petition never entered my head.

The help that I am looking for today is as follows:

Firstly, and most importantly, may I request that you consider signing the new petition addressed to the Senate. The URL is <http://www.petitiononline.com/oah2005/petition.html> - or you can go via <http://www.austmia.com> (and click on the picture of our PM).

Secondly, If you passed the word about the original petition to your friends etc, can you let them know that Jim Bourke did not do his homework properly (as explained above) and we need to sign the fresh petition to the Senate.

Finally, can you publicise the new petition to the Senate as widely as possible please.

Thanking you,
Regards,

Jim B.
James R. Bourke
OPERATION AUSSIES HOME

Direct: 03 9887 0408
Fax: 03 9262 1532
Mobile: 0412 826 744

**We will not Forget
OPERATION AUSSIES HOME: Full
and definitive accounting for the six
Australian servicemen — who
were either killed in action or miss-
ing in action — during the Viet
Nam War — and whose bodies
have not been recovered.**

**Children of Vietnam Veterans
Health Study.**

Chairman: Mr Geoff Parker
covvhs@ncable.net.au

Incorporating representatives of: RSL,
PVA, VVAA, SDVVG, VVFA, T.P.I.

COVVHS is concerned about the health issues facing many sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans. Their objective being to promote policy change at Government level for improved services to those sons and daughters who have health problems which have arisen due to their parent's active service. There is a larger and more diverse range of problems than most realise. Many people have not been aware of the potential link between the children's ill health and their parent's service in Vietnam. Thinking it was their problem alone; they have been reluctant to speak out.

COVVHS Main Objectives are to:

- To instigate a family health study, both quantitative and qualitative, of sons and daughters of Vietnam Veterans.
- Create awareness, in the Australian community, of the ill health suffered by many sons and daughters of veterans, and the link that exists with their parents' active service for their country.

Many of these young adults are suffering from a higher incidence of ill health than their friends, outside of the veteran community.

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Illnesses and conditions suffered by our children are extremely varied. This is why we talk about "Chronic ill health," to give an idea of some of the problems relating to their health. To name a few, these include depression, inability to gain or retain employment, 'electricity' running through their bodies at any sign of anxiety, psychotic disorders, mental illness, and medical illnesses such as endometriosis, ovarian problems, bowel conditions, skin conditions, anodontia, (lack of teeth,) heart, kidney and eye problems, and many others. Most people are aware of the Morbidity Study of 1997, which provided the first insight into the wide range of serious illnesses suffered by Vietnam veteran's sons and daughters.

Each of the ex-service organisations is supportive of the need to look after the sons and daughters of veterans.

Many veterans' sons and daughters have a deteriorating quality of life.

The issues for COVVHS is to improve the health services presently available to sons and daughters of veterans, which have occurred as a result of their parents 'active' service.

Research into the health of veteran's sons and daughters would ascertain whether the incidence of chronic ill health in veteran's sons and daughters is higher than the general community

The time is right It has been agreed that, based on the findings of the 1997 Vietnam Morbidity Survey, there is a need for further research into the psychosocial effects of war service on families. The Government has recognised that the ill-health suffered by veteran's sons and daughters is an area of concern, and has subsequently extended the charter of the VVCS to include partners and children of Vietnam Veterans. This is a much-appreciated initiative. This study identified some alarming health problems in veteran's children. The

Townsville and Hervey Bay? (UK)
A: What did your last slave die of?

7. Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia? (USA)

A: A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the pacific which does not... oh forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

8. Q: Which direction is North in Australia? (USA)

A: Face south and then turn 90 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

9. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

10. Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is — oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

11. Q: Do you have perfume in Australia? (France)

A: No, WE don't stink.

12. Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia (USA)

A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

13. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

14. Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)

A: Yes, gay nightclubs.

15. Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in

23

Australia? (France)
A: Only at Christmas.

16. Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)

A: No, we are a peaceful civilization of vegan hunter gatherers. Milk is illegal.

17. Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)

A: Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.

18. Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I Forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

A: It's called a Drop Bear. They are so called because they drop out of gum trees and eat the brains of anyone walking underneath them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.

19. Q: I was in Australia in 1966 on R+R, and I want to contact the girl I dated while I was staying in Kings Cross. Can you help? (USA)

A: Yes, and you will still have to pay her by the hour.

20. Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go? (USA)

A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.

Never knew that!

You learn something new every day!

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before commercial fertiliser's invention, so large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of

1. "Take it easy, Doc. You're boldly going where no man has gone before!"
2. "Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"
3. "You know, in Arkansas, we're now legally married."
4. "You put your left hand in, you take your left hand out..."
5. "Hey! Now I know how a Muppet feels!"
6. "If your hand doesn't fit, you must quit!"
7. "Hey Doc, let me know if you find my dignity."
8. "Now I know why I am not gay."

And the best one of them all...

"Could you write a note for my wife saying that my head is not up there."

Freebies or it's a wise person who knows their Father

It was many years ago since the embarrassing day when a young woman, with a baby in her arms, entered a butcher shop and confronted the butcher with the news that the baby was his and asked what was he going to do about it. Finally, he offered to provide her with free meat until the boy was 16. She agreed.

He had been counting the years off on his calendar, and one day the teenager who had been collecting the meat each week, came into the shop and said, "I'll be 16 tomorrow." "I know," said the butcher with a smile, "I've been counting too. Tell your mother, when you take this parcel of meat home, that

it is the last free meat she'll get, and watch the expression on her face."

When the boy arrived home he told his mother. The woman nodded and said, "Son, go back to the butcher and tell him I have also had free bread, free milk, and free groceries for the last 16 years and watch the expression on HIS face!"

These questions about Australia

These questions about Australia were posted on an Australian Tourism Website and obviously the answers came from fellow Aussies.

1. Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, so how do the plants grow? (UK)

A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.

2. Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

3. Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the Railroad tracks? (Sweden)

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water...

4. Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in Australia? (Sweden)

A: So its true what they say about Swedes.

5. Q: It is imperative that I find the names and addresses of places to contact for a stuffed porpoise. (Italy)

A: Let's not touch this one.

6. Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in Australia? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns,

Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

Partners of Veterans Association of Australia has undertaken a self reported survey of the health of their member's sons and daughters and grandchildren.

The information reported clearly indicates that in many cases, both their health problems and quality of life are deteriorating.

The July 2003 Evaluation of Vietnam veterans sons and daughters project found a need for continuing counselling services, and called for "research to improve the understanding of the risk factors amongst the children of veterans" and "conduct policy research relevant to the services offered".

Veteran's Badge

Here is a message for all our REME members. Make application fellas.

Hi John

I have just found out from my Hadrians Old Boys site that a Veteran's Badge has been commissioned (May 2004) to be worn as a lapel badge on civvy's. It is awarded to ex-servicemen and women, who have fought in conflicts since the second world war. It was originally for those people who fought in both world wars, It's purpose is so that the wider public can recognise veteran's.

To apply for the badge you need to contact : Richard Godfrey, MOD, 7th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB. Expect to wait 4-6 weeks for a reply.

Information I presume MOD require is name/rank/service number and service history.

Regards John

Army Training Team Returns From Iraq

51 Army personnel from the second contingent of the Australian Army Training Team - Iraq (AATTI) have arrived home after a five month rotation to

northern Iraq.

The Australian Army Training Team Iraq continues to make a valuable contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq through the rebuilding of its Army. The 51 soldiers who returned today have done an outstanding job in very difficult, demanding and often dangerous situations.

Australian soldiers are respected and admired around the world for their professionalism, courage and dedication to duty. The Iraqi soldiers they have trained will have greatly benefited from the expertise of the Australian Army.

Throughout the training period the team faced numerous challenges created by being located in a remote and hostile environment. Despite these difficulties the team were able to complete their mission and provide first class military training to an Iraqi Army Brigade.

Family and friends and the Deputy Chief of Army Major General Ian Gordon to officially welcome home the soldiers at Sydney Airport.

The AATTI was responsible for developing and implementing the training for 2700 of Iraq's officers and soldiers. The training covered all areas of basic military skills including drill, weapon handling, infantry tactics, navigation, leadership and teamwork. Training was also conducted in unit administration and logistics.

The training covered the full spectrum of military training from basic physical fitness through to small group fighting tactics, and including weapons handling, drill, communications, preparing and giving orders and unit esprit de corps.

Army Task Group Getting Ready For Operations

The group of 450 Darwin soldiers who will soon make up the AI Muthanna

Task Group (AMTG) that will be deployed to southern Iraq are undergoing rigorous training and preparation work in the lead up to the operation.

Defence Minister Robert Hill will visit the troops from 1 Brigade in Darwin today to gain a better insight into the preparation that is needed before the Task Group commences operations in Iraq in less than 10 weeks.

The Task Group is currently undergoing reconnaissance and planning in preparation for the deployment. They will also be taken through work-up training and mission rehearsals.

All members of the Task Group will be put through a comprehensive and demanding series of training activities specifically designed to ensure they are fully prepared for the operation.

This training will build on the already high level of experience and capability within 1 Brigade units from their recent involvement in operations, including Operation Catalyst in Iraq.

The safety of our troops remains this Government's highest priority and every effort is being made to ensure they deploy with all necessary equipment and training.

The preparation covers a wide range of activities including training people and preparing equipment for the mission, getting transport and support elements into position and helping families to prepare for their loved one's absence.

An Army Reconnaissance team is currently in Iraq to gather information to assist in the preparation of the Task Group.

Information will be gained from the reconnaissance team as well as our intelligence organisation and our allies.

Further information will be gained on the specific tasks the Task Force will be required to perform, medical support

arrangements, local culture and climate.

The new world-class Army Combat Training Centre at Robertson Barracks will also be used to help train the Task Group in simulated operational conditions before deployment.

1 Brigade has previously been involved in operations in Iraq providing personnel for the Security Detachment and the Australian Army Training Team Iraq.

Our ASLAVs have already demonstrated that they are one of the best light armoured vehicles in the world and they continue to be enhanced to meet the changing threat environment.

The personal protective equipment provided to Australian soldiers, such as ballistic goggles, enhanced combat helmet and combat body armour, has already proven its value on the streets of Baghdad.

The outstanding preparation, training and equipment of 1 Brigade units has already been a significant factor in the success of Operation Catalyst and in protecting Australian troops.

Army celebrates 104 years of serving the nation

The Australian Army today celebrated its 104th birthday with celebrations and services around the country.

"Today we reflect on the achievements of soldiers, past and present, over the past 104 years. We remember their courage, their dedication to duty and their sacrifices in the service to Australia," Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said.

"Whilst we pause to reflect on 104 years of service, all soldiers are mindful there is still a job to be done. Soldiers in Darwin are getting ready to deploy to Al Muthana and join other Australian Forces in the Middle East.

last time at their beautiful dining room table by candlelight, put on some soft background music, and feasted on a kilo of prawns, a jar of caviar, and a bottle of Chardonnay. When she had finished, she went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten prawn shells, dipped in caviar, into the hollow of the Curtain rods. She then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

When the husband returned with his new girlfriend, all was bliss for the first few days. Then slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything; cleaning and mopping and airing the place out.

Vents were checked for dead rats, and carpets were steam-cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which they had to move out for a few days, and in the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting.

Nothing worked. People stopped coming over to visit...Repairmen refused to work in the house...The maid quit... Finally, they could not take the stench any longer and decided to move.

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

An Aussie joke

A Northern Territory farm hand radios back to the farm manager. "Boss, I gotta helluva problem here. I hit a pig with the ute. The pig's OK, but he's stuck in the bullbars at the front of my ute and is wriggling and squealing so much I can't get him out."

The manager says "Ok, there's a .303 rifle behind the seat. Take it, shoot the pig in the head and you'll be able to remove him."

Five minutes later the farm hand calls back. "I did what you said boss. Took

A month later, even though they had cut their price in half, they could not find a buyer for their stinky house. Word got out, and eventually, even the local realtors refused to return their calls.

Finally, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place. The ex-wife called the man, and asked how things were going. He told her the saga of the rotting house. She listened politely, and said that she missed her old home terribly, and she would be willing to reduce her divorce settlement in exchange for getting the house back...

Knowing his ex-wife had no idea how bad the smell was, he agreed on a price that was about 1/10th of what the house had been worth...But only if she were to sign the papers that very day. She agreed, and within the hour, his lawyers delivered the paperwork. A week later, the man and his new girlfriend stood smirking as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home... including the curtain rods.

I LOVE A HAPPY ENDING, DON'T YOU????

the 303, shot the pig in the head and removed him from the bull-bars. No problem there, but I still can't go on". "Now what's the problem?" raged the Manager. "Well boss, it's his motorbike. The flashing blue light is stuck under the right-front wheel arch."..... "You there Boss?"

Colonoscopies

A physician claimed that the following are actual comments made by his patients (predominantly male) while he was performing their Colonoscopies:

Their pay is literally peanuts, with the occasional banana thrown in.

The oversized rodents strutted their stuff for the media yesterday as part of a weeklong international land mines summit in the Kenyan capital Nairobi,

A fully trained platoon of African hamster rats, brooded and raised in Tanzania, is engaged in the process of demining," said Frank Weetjens, who manages Mozambique's mine detection program.

The rats had another significant advantage over dogs: they were less likely to trigger mines and be blown up

*They are too light to activate anti-personnel mines," Mr Weetjens said.

They work single-mindedly and, on detecting the smell of explosives, they use their fore paws to vigorously scratch on the ground.

Mozambique's devastating civil war ended more than a decade ago, but the country, like many in Africa; remains littered with thousands of anti personnel mines.

Tanzania has made a speciality of training the rats. Defence Minister Philemon Sarungi told the conference the animals were in demand from Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan.
AFP

Medal Continues to Recognise National Service

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, De-Anne Kelly has urged former National Servicemen to apply for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

More than 320 000 former National Servicemen were identified as eligible at the time of the medal's creation in 2001. However, only 120 000 have come forward to date to claim their entitlement.

Mrs Kelly made the call ahead of delivering an address and laying a wreath at the National Servicemen's Association remembrance ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph, Sydney, today (see below for details).

Between 1951 - 1959 more than 227 000 young Australians undertook a period of full-time and part-time service under the national service scheme.

From January 1965 through until December 1972, a further 63 000 national servicemen gave between 18 months and two years of full time service. In addition more than 30 000 Australians elected to complete their national service obligation as members of the Citizens Military Force under the 1965 - 1972 national service scheme. As well as their military duties at home, many National Servicemen served overseas in international conflicts during the 1960s.

National servicemen served in Malaysia and Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation, and some 17 400 served with distinction in South Vietnam.

Those who believe they are eligible should fill out an application form, available through State branches of the National Serviceman's Association and the Returned and Services League of Australia, electoral offices of MP's and Senators, or through the Defence Honours and Awards website at: www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/ or toll free on 1800 111 321.

Beware the curtain rods

She spent the first day packing her belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases.

On the second day, she had the removalists come and collect her things.

On the third day, she sat down for the

DFRDB Problems???

Open letter to the Minister of Veteran's Affairs which may interest receivers of the DFRDB Pension.

From: LtCol David .R. Lewis (Retd)
9 Driffeld Street
HAMERSLEY.
W.A 6022
27th November 04

The Hon De-Anne Kelly, MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence
Parliament House
CANBERRA. ACT 2600

Dear Minister ,

DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT & DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME INJUSTICE

I am seeking your assistance on a matter that is causing me and thousands of other retired Servicemen and women, to be "ripped off" by the Government as a result of flawed legislation in the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit (DFRDB) Scheme, a statutory scheme operating under the DFRDB Act (1973). Specifically, that the 1963 Actuarial Tables (Life Expectancy data) used in the Act cannot be updated to use current data.

I write to you in my capacity as an Ex Serviceman, a recipient of the DFRDB Pension and as National Chairman of the Australian Special Air Service Association. In writing to you, I am conscious that the Department of Defence is responsible for the formulation of the policy underlying the DFRDB Scheme and that the DFRDB Authority is legally responsible for the administration of the DFRDB Scheme and the Commissioner for Superannuation is the Chairman of the Authority. I am also aware that ComSuper administers the DFRDB Scheme on behalf of the Authority.

The issue was publicly raised in the Daily Telegraph on 8th June 2004 how-

The focus of the entire Army is, as always, on preparing and supporting their mates on this latest operational deployment.

"The deployment to Al Muthana is another task in a year of high operational tempo. Soldiers have been called on to serve the nation at home and around the world in places as far afield as the Solomon Islands, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Bougainville, Bosnia, East Timor and the Middle East. Many are on exchange or on postings with our coalition allies.

"The spirit of the Aussie 'digger' was exemplified by the immediate work undertaken to support our Indonesian neighbours following the Asian Tsunami disaster. As always, soldiers were ready to lend a hand to those in need.

"I am pleased that the Australian Army has risen to all these challenges and will continue to do so in the future.

"The Australian Army has gained a reputation world-wide for professionalism, courage, dedication and compassion. Australian soldiers are respected and admired wherever they go. This reputation has been earned through hard work, determination and experience.

"Soldiers continue to make a real and positive contribution to the lives of the people they touch and they are playing a significant role in making the world a safer and more peaceful place.

"The success of the Army over the past 104 years would not have been possible without the support of the Australian public and in particular Army's families. On behalf of all soldiers - thank you.

"As we prepare to face the challenges ahead we look to the future with confidence knowing that Australia has a modern, capable and professional Army ready to defend Australia and its national interests.

ever it is not a new issue. The issues relating to the Life Expectancy Tables has been raised with Opposition and Governments since the 1980's and I am aware that several organizations including my own, have raised this in recent times with the two previous Ministers Assisting the Minister for Defence, the Minister by appointment responsible for the DFRDB Scheme in total. It is obviously unjust but our representations have been consistently ignored.

My generation of Ex-Servicemen has been remarkably patient on this issue considering the financial losses we are incurring as a result of this flawed legislation and inept Government response. The shortfall to us is around \$3,000pa. We have generally left the matter to our representing Ex Service Organisations to resolve with Government in a dignified manner, consistent with the manner in which we served this Country in War and Peace. After several years of prodigious effort to resolve this with the Coalition, it is clear we need to ramp up our actions to compensate for the Governments inactions.

The difficulty for us is the simple ask; "What is so hard about legislating to amend a Superannuation Act to reflect what is in every other Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme in Australia, including that of course for Parliamentarians?"

The fact that the DFRDB Life Expectancy Factors are not updated to use current data, when all other Superannuation Schemes do so, is clearly discriminatory. The fact that it has and is causing DFRDB Members to suffer financial loss is unfair, unjust and dare I suggest, obscene. It is not the Australian way to treat anyone in this manner, particularly as they have spent their working lives in the Australian Defence Force and in many cases have risked their lives in the Service of

their Country at Government direction.

I can assure you, the Government is under-estimating the disquiet that is within the Veteran Community as the impact is not only on the former Servicemen, but their widows also, particularly as this message is further disseminated to our members. It is especially disconcerting to note that the matter has been raised directly with the PM and he has apparently chosen not to act! Is it because the funding implications of amending this scheme the problem, or rather, the belief that it is a "dead scheme", with now less than 7,000 Uniformed Defence Personnel still contribution? For us, it is far from a "dead scheme", it is our future.

Another aspect of the Scheme appears doubtful and that is, whether the Act is discriminatory. Changes to the Superannuation exemptions in the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) 1984 came into effect on 25 June 1993. Existing funds (such as DFRDB) had until 01 July 1994 to comply with the provisions of section 41B of the SDA. Whilst understandably ComSuper took no action on this, as the Administrator of the DFRDB Scheme, surely Defence should have responded as the delegate responsible for the formulation of Policy. There is no evidence to suggest Defence took any action in the interest of those men and women still in Uniform at the time and now leaves itself open to assumptions of unlawful discrimination (or negligence).

The final major flaw in the DFRDB Scheme relates to those who have chosen to Commute their Pension entitlements. Pursuant to Section 23(2) of the DFRDB Act, in the simplest form, retirement pay is calculate as follows:

Annual rate of pay at discharge X relevant percentage set out in Schedule I to the Act (derived from completed years of service) equal amount of retirement pay per annum before commutation.

funeral will have to be delayed until these details are established.

Bob was born on 02 February 1948 and served with 9 RAR in Vietnam from 09 November 1968 until 26 November 1969.

Bob is survived by four daughters, Terri-Lee, Paula, Georgine and Joanne.

I have phoned Terri-Lee and spoke to her husband Luke. I extended our condolences to them and the rest of their family. I have also offered them any assistance if they should need it.

If you would like to send a card or message to Terri-Lee and Luke their address is;

37 Miller Circuit, 'Greenwood Estate', Kirwan. QLD. 4817.

Our thoughts are with Terri-Lee and her sisters at this time.

May Bob Rest In Peace.

Regards
Len

Vietnam - Aussie Know How

The engineers of RAEME Members of a 106 Field Workshop patrol in 1969.

Units of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) served Australia well in many conflicts.

Their skill and dedication in keeping essential equipment repaired and in good working order have been well documented.

Vietnam was no exception.

Captain Sandy MacGregor

106 FIELD WORKSHOP, 1969

106 Field Workshop repaired damaged vehicles such as tanks and Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), often under extreme conditions.

A Centurion tank was badly damaged when it struck a Viet Cong mine during clearing operations near Nui Dat. Fol-

lowing closely behind were members of the 106 Field Workshop, travelling in a specially adapted armoured mobile repair unit. Despite the tanks track assembly being a complete write-off the team managed to repair the tank, replacing the complete front suspension unit, front idler wheels and track in only eight hours.

After seeing at close range the damage caused by vehicles hitting mines 106 Field Workshop set to work to make armour kits. After a number of trials using damaged APCs over VC mines, they were approved for use. This additional armour became a universal modification for Australian APCs and saved many young soldiers from serious injury and death.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

Years after the war Major Claude Palmer, who was Officer-in-Charge of the unit, was walking along Darlinghurst Road in Sydney when a young man rushed up.

"I know you - your unit designed that anti-mine kit that was fitted to my APC in Vietnam,"

"I've wanted to thank you personally for years. Soon after your boys rearmoured my APC, it hit a mine. Thanks to your work, my mates and I survived in one piece."

A landmine rat that nose danger

Nairobi: Giant African rats prized for their fine sense of smell are being deployed across fields and roads in Mozambique to sniff out land mines as part of a global effort to clear the devices that kill and maim thousands of people every year.

Unlike mine-sniffing dogs which easily become bored with the monotonous work, rats enjoy seeking out land mines, according to their handlers.'

Melbourne, here he met other well known identities and current members of the Association such as: Les Bailey, Lyall Butling, Brian Driscoll, Bill Holmes, Ray Vaux and Max Edbrooke.

With War-time experience behind him and a keen interest in soldiering, Don soon advanced through the NCO Ranks and was commissioned as an Officer in 1950. Then came further experience in LAD's at the same time attending to study requirements for future promotion.

In 1957 Don was appointed OC of 106 Infantry Workshop, then followed further Staff appointments and courses in preparation for bigger things.

He was appointed Lt. Col. in 1966 reaching the peak of his Military career with his appointment as CRAEME 3 Div in 1972, a position he held until his retirement in 1975

Don had many military related interests both during and after his CMF career. In the RAEME Association, he was a long-term Committee member, Trustee, Vice President and Life Member of the RAEME Association.

In the RSL at Anzac House he was a volunteer for many years almost daily attending to his many duties. As Deputy Chief Marshall he was responsible for the assembly and coordinating dispatch of the entire Anzac Day March from the CBI) - a job requiring considerable planning and people skills. In 1996 for his service to the RSL Don was awarded Life Membership with Gold Badge.

Don was a member of the 2/7 Infantry Bn Association, and served as President, Committee Member and later Life Member. He was for many years an active Councillor of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria and a Member of the Victorian Branch of the

Australian National Flag Association. Don Macleod was a very active man.

We of the RAEME Association can be proud that we were associated with Don Macleod, he was a volunteer in the true meaning of the word. In time of war and peace he took the risks and readily gave of his time in the interest of family, his country and his mates. Those who served with and worked with him will long remember his contribution in the many areas in which he was involved.

Our fondest regards and best wishes to Don's wife Bonnie and their family

Lest We Forget

Passing of Bob Bryant

Hi John, received this from Phil this morning asking me to forward it on to you and he asked if you could give him a ring at work.

Regards
Don Phillips

Hi Don

I am not sure if you knew Bob, he was a fitter.

Can you forward this to John Curtis and ask him to give me a call at work.

Regards
Phil P

It is with deep regret that I advise that Robert John Bryant has passed away.

I received a phone call from Rae Halpin this afternoon advising that Bob had passed away.

Unfortunately at this point in time we don't know exactly when Bob passed away nor what was the cause of his death.

Bob was found deceased in his home and it is suspected that he passed away on Sunday 07 December however, this has yet to be confirmed.

It was thought that the funeral could be held this Friday however, until the cause and date of death is established the

A Uniformed person may elect to commute their retirement pay to a lump sum, pursuant to Section 24 of the DFRDB Act. There is a simple commutation formula in section 24 that operates by reference to a person's completed years of service, after 30th June 1982. The application of this formula produces a commutation factor and the commuted lump sum, is derived by multiplying the retirement pay by the commutation factor.

The post-commutation retirement pay is derived by reducing the pre-commutation retirement pay by an amount calculated by dividing the Service Persons commutation lump sum by the person's life expectation factor set out in Schedule 3 to the DFRDB Act. (I believe as stated, to be discriminatory). And herein lies the final problem. When the pension is reduced, based on the individuals' life expectancy, the calculation allows for the "Pay-back" of the commuted amount by way of a reduced Pension. However, once the Ex Serviceperson has reached his life expectancy and technically discharged his/her debt, there is NO mechanism in place to restore the Pension to the pre-commuted entitlement.

Should the serviceman live, as some have up to 30years past their life expectancy, as the recent State Funerals reveal, then this effectively steals from them by deceit, anything upwards of \$150,000. What is equally sad, the same intolerable rules will apply to widows under the new MRC Act, should they wish to commute the portion of the Pension on the death of their husband.

Minister, many of us cop it on the chin the disgraceful situation that prevailed for years whereby long- term allowances, such as Special Action Forces Allowances, Flying Allowance etc were not Superannuated, particularly when the Superannuation Guarantee (Admin) Act and Superannuation Guarantee

Ruling (SGR 94/4) required all regular paid allowances to be Superannuated. We were being taxed as though the allowances were superannuated, but they were not. The effect of this was that we accrued a debt that was paid at the point of Superannuation and this should have been corrected in the early 1990s. Whilst this aspect was adjusted on 12 August 04 with zero retrospectivity, you could perhaps appreciate why so many more of us under the DFRDB Scheme have felt cheated by mismanagement of a Condition of Service. In my own case, over life expectancy, I estimate this to be in excess of \$85,000 lost!!

You may understand our concerns about the Government's apparent apathy towards members of the DFRDB Scheme and the lack of fairness, justice and consistency. We believe the Government must demonstrate its good faith and commitment to DFRDB members and amend this Act and bring it into line with all other schemes. Furthermore, we who have been "ripped off" since retirement and our widows, must be compensated and receive our full entitlements into the future.

Minister, I have taken the very rare liberty to make this an open letter to my memberships so that they, should they so wish, may approach their local members. I also intend to forward a copy to the other National Executives from the Ex Service Community.

Sincerely in Service,

G'day From 1 CER

Here is a message sent to Mick Ryan, President of the RAE Assoc, from Banda Aceh. Its really good to see praise for the work that RAEME does.

G'Day Mick,

Just sending a quick hello from the Engineer Group (1 CER (-) and attachments) located in Banda Aceh,

Sumatra, Indonesia.

Besides 1 CER there are Engineer elements from 1 Topo Svy Sqn, 19 CE Works, ERS IRR, 3 CER, 17 Const Sqn and 21 Const Sqn as well as several individuals from other Engineer Units.

Apart from RAE and RAEME, the following Corps are also represented in the Engr Gp; Armoured, Sigs, Int, Medics, Ordnance, Catering, Pay, Chaplaincy. I think I covered them all!

The lads are doing a fantastic job. It's a hard dirty job but the soldiers spirits are high and very motivated. They get personal satisfaction out of knowing they are making a difference; helping individuals and the community at large. As usual we are the doers that get things done with a minimum of fuss no matter what the limitations are.

The local community has made us feel very welcome, and I believe, have built up a healthy respect for us. There is the continuous shaking of hands, waving, smiles and thank you's. The kids are the same as all over the world and it's a pleasure to see them happy, they will come over and help our soldiers out were they can and there has been the odd instruction given on how to play cricket.

When I talk about Engrs I always use the term to include both RAE and RAEME. The EME Element of 1 CER has never faulted. They will work relentlessly day and night to ensure our equip is ready to go. If they don't have it they will fabricate it. They have been resurrecting a lot of severely damaged civilian water trucks donated to us from the Public Works. As soon as they're repaired the vehicles are out delivering potable water to the needy.

Our Civ Engrs, Cbt Engrs, Plt Operators, Drivers, Cbt Storemen, Cbt Clerks, Carpenters, Electricians,

Plumbers, Tech Geo's and Surveyors are doing the Corps proud.

Must go Mick, req you can add my new email address to your daily mail outs so I can keep updated on news back home. Request you can pass this on to Don Cameron over at the NQ Association and the fellas at the Engineers Sub-Branch of the RSL.

Cheers,
Tony Quirk
WO1
RSM 1 CER

Summary Of RAEME Corps Committee Outcomes

The following was provided by BRIG Ross Grant AM (Rtd) in the UK. (Extracted from The RAEME Association, Queensland "Spanner News " of Jan 2005)

Review of the RAEME Corps Strategic Plan BRIG has given BRIG McGahey an undertaking to review this document in the next few months once he is settled in the UK.

Appointment of COL's COMDTs The changeover of Col's Comdt was agreed and *will* be announced in the forthcoming Craftsman if the Chief of Army approves the proposed appointments.

Museum Funding There has been little progress with the development of the RAEME display. However, with the recent presentation of a cheque for \$3000 by the RAEME Vietnam Veterans' Association of Vic, which is disbanding, the momentum can be regained. The appointment of MAJ Graham Anderson, the Corps new S02 Heritage, together with his allocation of 100 ARES man-days, should be able to revitalise the museum development. In the Chairman's opinion, the development of the Museum should become a key responsibility and focus of the Corps Committee, the Corps in general and the

eyes; mouth & nose may develop a rash following contact with dust containing beryllium. There is no preventive or curative treatment available for berylliosis or chronic beryllium disease. There are some respiratory and topical medications that can ease the severity of the condition(s).

What is Defence doing?

A Beryllium Information Service has now been established. A registrar will take the name, contact details and a record of how the Defence-related exposure to beryllium may have occurred. This service is now available. The contact number is 1800 000 644. In addition, the Department of Defence is determining:- the extent to which copper-beryllium alloy needles were used in the past;- over what time frame, and; - what safety related information was known at the time.

Today, regulations and safety standards are in place regarding the management and use of beryllium-related materials, and mitigating the risks of exposure to beryllium-related materials, in the Australian Defence Force.

What Should I Do? If you are a current ADF member and you think that you may have been affected by exposure to beryllium, please contact your local ADF health centre to make an appointment and receive advice. Current and former ADF members may lodge a claim with the Department of Veterans' Affairs if they believe that their health has been adversely affected by exposure to beryllium. Call 133 254 or 1800 555 254. If any other individual believes they may have had a Defence-related exposure to beryllium, please contact the Beryllium Information Service on 1800 000 644.

Capt Ian McLeod

American retired Sergeant has recently come across a photograph in his old

army footlocker. It was one he had taken in Korea in early 1953 of Capt Ian McLeod, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The soldiers were on their way to an RAR location on the other side of the 38th parallel. Ian took a photo of the writer on the same day.

Ian, at one time, was a professional wrestler and is believed to have come from Perth. Several other names of buddies remembered from the "Forgotten War of 50 Years Ago" are Sgt Bill Stanton, Cpl Bill Grogan and Cfn Michaelis from Melbourne (all RAEME)

Hoping to hear from anyone who remembers. Contact Patrick (Frank) COMASKEY, 186 Mt Pleasant Avenue, Wallington NJ 07057, Florida, USA.

Ed's Note: We have contacted Frank and have passed onto him a copy of the Vale for "Blackjack" MacLeod. Unfortunately Frank was just too late. He is, however, looking for the other RAEME Members he has mentioned. If anyone knows of them, please let Frank know or, alternatively contact the Editor of the Horse's Mouth.

Vale Lt. Col. D. I. Macleod RFD. ED. 1922-2004

The RAEME Association, in Victoria, has lost a Life Member and a stalwart of many years.

Don joined the AIF in July 1942 and was discharged in January 1946. He served with 2/7 Infantry Bn, was transferred as a Tradesman to AEME on its formation and was discharged from 2/3 Australian Infantry Troops Workshop having served in New Guinea and Borneo.

On the formation of the CMF in 1948 Don became an original member of AEME at Powlett Street, East

tralia in 1998.

This book is definitely going ahead; the contracts have been signed and the timing agreed. It is a daunting task - given the complexity and sensitivity of the subject. Everyone I meet seems to have some link with the war. Your help is most appreciated.

[This message is addressed to the Australia's Vietnam Veterans Associations and other organisations associated with the war. If I have omitted anybody, my apologies, and please contact me. I hope you don't mind me sending this group email, but it was the quickest way of getting in touch with you].

Yours sincerely

Paul Ham

Beryllium Information Service **Now Operational**

The Department of Defence has today announced that the Beryllium Information Service (BIS) is now operational via the ADF Defence Service Centre, Cooma, providing an opportunity for concerned Defence personnel and the public to register their names.

Individuals who believe they were exposed to beryllium as a result of Defence-related activities will be offered the opportunity to register their details with the Defence Service Centre.

This Beryllium Information Service is now available and concerned individuals are encouraged to ring 1800 000 644.

The Beryllium Register will record each caller's personal and potential exposure details.

The Service Centre expects to be contacted by four potential groups of callers.

* Currently Serving ADF and APS

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members.

* Ex-serving ADF members.

* Contractors working on ADF facilities or projects.

* Other third parties including former APS civilians, cadets and family members.

Individuals who register will be contacted in writing regarding the appropriate course of action for their individual circumstances.

A Defence Health Service Beryllium Fact Sheet will make up part of all information packages sent out along with other specifically targeted advice.

Why can beryllium be harmful? Very few persons exposed to Beryllium-related material will ever develop the chronic lung disease. The New South Wales Dust Disease Board, which collects data on all "dust" diseases in the State, has recorded only one possible case of beryllium-induced lung disease in many decades of collecting statewide data. Beryllium can cause a long-term lung disease (berylliosis) in some people by triggering an immune (allergic) response in the body. In general, significant exposure to beryllium in a respirable form is required for any disease to occur, and symptoms may take up to 20 years to develop even after exposure has stopped. The allergic component of the disease is not necessarily dose-related. On average, fewer than 10% of people with significant exposures develop the immune response, and only some of these will develop any related symptoms. Long-term exposure to beryllium can also cause a slight increase in the risk of lung cancer. The risk is very small in comparison with the risk of lung cancer from smoking. The symptoms of berylliosis include shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, weight loss and fatigue. These symptoms are common, so that most people who have these symptoms do not have berylliosis. Occasionally, other areas of the body like the skin,

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bona fide RAEME Associations, if the Corps wants its heritage preserved. This is an area that also needs an injection of manpower (either volunteer of reservists man-days) to keep the momentum for development going.

RAEME Memorial Usage A Corps Instruction was to be produced last year but is yet to be completed. MAJ Graham Anderson will look into this, when he is appointed.

RAEME Associations and a desire for National Affiliation This was a new item of business, which came out of discussions about the requirement for the associations to develop for members of the Corps, or for retired members to have some allegiance to their old Corps. The Committee agreed it was beyond the power and resources of the appointed HOC, and his staff, to manage the Associations or even weld them ever so loosely into a national body. Rather, this should be a role for the COL's COMDT under the stewardship of the REP COL COMDT. To that end, it was agreed that a meeting be chaired by you in 2005, which brought the Association Reps together for an exploratory meeting with their local COL's COMDTs. An agenda has been *provided* to MAJ Graham Anderson and it was *up* to Col Smith the REP COL COMDT (Elect) to decide the time place, level of attendance and final agenda. The general aim was to encourage closer ties between the Associations and the Corps; standardise their membership criteria (open to all who have been associated with the Corps); and agree on a strategy to promote the Corps; to celebrate the Corps achievements through appropriate activities; and to preserve the Corps heritage in whatever manner thought appropriate, but principally through the written word and our Museum displays.

Corps Port Being produced by the Avia-

tion Support Group Workshops to celebrate the 40 years of service RAEME has given to Army Aviation.

Fundraising Sale of Banner Miniatures - the last sale of the limited edition banners was very successful and SO 2 Corps Heritage's advice was to 'hasten slowly' towards the next release - probably 2005-06.

Another Corps History - it was agreed that the proposal from the proposed author, Mr. James Mason, be agreed in principal. BRIG Grant was tasked to put together an outline plan for an as yet to be established project team.

The Chairman explained that the role of the Corps Committee was to oversee the process and support the volunteer project officer, MAJ Arthur Tsamis, and SO2 Corps, who will have a major role to get the ball rolling and manage the project. BRIG Grant will write separately on this subject to Mr. Mason, and the first step is to get an agreed project plan in place and advise Mr. Mason of the process.

His proposed writing plan is simple but Corps Committee needs to amend it slightly to cater for a range of photos from individuals currently serving, or previously associated with the Corps and not just rely on the AWM.

Corps Awards - the process has worked better this year, but the decision making about the final recipients was incomplete. The number of nominations improved marginally over other years. BRIG Grant asked that the process continue to be improved and asked the HOC organisation to resolve the matter, in particular the RSM, SO2 Corps and SO2 Corps Heritage.

Medals Board. All work is completed and the board was presented to the REME Museum during a visit to the UK by BRIG McCahey. A reciprocal presentation was made to the Army

Logistic Museum, by the visiting REME representative, who attended the Conference.

It comprised art works painted by a REME POW from the Second World War of life in the Japanese Prison in Changi.

Renewal of the RAEME presence at the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Avenue of Honour for the Army Apprentices

BRIG Grant and the HOC, BRIG McGahey, acknowledged the work undertaken by COL David Creagh and his staff to revitalise the Corps' presence at the Corps School, has been first class and asked that the minutes will reflect the results. He also congratulated COL Creagh, in absentia on his recent promotion and appointment to AHQ. The new CO, of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering is to be LTCOL Andy Adams. BRIG asked that his congratulations be passed on to LTCOL Adams.

RAEME Database This issue should be incorporated into the discussion of the role and function of the Corps associations. However, it will require linkages between the S02 Corps, who has a database for the mailing of the Craftsman, Associations who maintain current databases of some serving but mainly retired people and other lists around the traps. This development will take time and a lot of effort and will be discussed further at the proposed associations' conference mentioned above.

Greater Role For Army Reserves On Operations

Army Reserves have begun providing some of the Transit Security Elements (TSE) aboard Navy vessels on Operation Relex II and have a greater role on operations in the Solomon Islands and

Timor Leste, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced today.

Operation Relex II is the Australian Defence Force operation which contributes to the whole of government program to detect, intercept and deter vessels carrying unauthorised arrivals from entering Australia through the North-West maritime approaches. It includes naval, air force and army units supported by Coastwatch and Customs.

Reserves are continuing to take a greater role on operations and as part of domestic security capability.

The deployment of reserves as TSE's for Operation Relex II and in designated positions on Operation Spire in Timor Leste and Operation Anode in the Solomons is further evidence of the valuable contribution they are making to Australian Defence Force (ADF) capability.

The service of Army Reserves over the past few years has reinforced the value of the Reserves as an important component of the ADF. Their performance on recent operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Bougainville, and the Solomon Islands has contributed significantly to the success of those missions.

Enhancements to legislation, training and conditions of service mean the Army can draw on reserves to augment existing capability with even more confidence. Now more than ever service in the Army Reserves offers a greater range of operational opportunities.

A standard TSE consists of approximately 60 personnel made up of general security personnel and specialist elements such as Military Police.

Operation Spire is the ADF contribution in Timor-Leste. Deployed personnel undertake a range of roles to support the UN, mainly performing specialist tasks in fields such as logistics and

engineering and military liaison. The primary ADF contribution to the UN is a Support Company comprising an Engineering Troop, Transport Section and Maintenance Section, Operation Anode is the Australian Defence Force contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). The overall RAMSI undertaking is known as Operation HELPEM FREN.

Book on Vietnam War

From: Paul Ham, 108 Mill Hill Road, Bondi Junction, Sydney, NSW 2022
Tel: 02-9388 9421; Mobile: 0413 041580; email: hamz@optusnet.com.au

6th February 2005

Dear all,

I'm writing a history of Australia's role in the Vietnam War, to be published by HarperCollins in 2007.

To this end, I hope to interview as many veterans and civilians involved in the war as time will allow. The idea is to build a strong narrative history of Australia's experience in the conflict. I'm also keen to obtain diaries, letters, photos and other documents that will assist me in writing an accurate account of the war. As such, I seek your help...

At the core of the book will be the soldier's story - told with unsparing detail and thorough attention to the circumstances of his dispatch, experiences in Vietnam, and return to Australia.

The book will present the Australian experience by drawing on personal interviews, private papers, and original documents held in the National Archives and Australian War Memorial. It will set the Australian story in the context of the American and Vietnamese (north and south) experiences. It will describe the war against the background of huge

political division and upheaval in Australia; indeed, a large part of the book will be set at home. In this sense, the book will be a social and political history of an astonishing period - as well as an account of a terrible human conflict. My research will take me around Australia and Vietnam, and to Washington DC. The book will be aimed at the general reader - both the generation who experienced the war, and a younger audience (whose knowledge of Vietnam seems mostly drawn from Hollywood).

In short, I would be most grateful if you or your colleagues and families may be willing to assist me.

I'm searching for strong individual accounts, powerful anecdotes - any story that helps to illuminate the truth about Vietnam. The key battles are obviously of great interest; so are stories of training, R&R, departure and homecoming experiences, the response of civilian Australia, and rehabilitation after the war. If you have an experience to relate, please feel free to call or email me (details above), or to forward this email to anyone you know who may be interested in contributing to the book. I wish to cast the net as widely as possible. To this end, perhaps you could also post this message on your web sites or in your veterans newsletters?

A bit on my background: I'm the author of "Kokoda", which came out last November (not to be confused with another book of the same name). "Kokoda" should be available in your local libraries, and certainly your local bookshops, if you need an example of my work. I am also the Australia correspondent for The Sunday Times (London). Born in Sydney, I went to school and university here before working in London for many years as a journalist and publisher. I returned to Aus-