

# *RAEME Association NSW Inc.*

## *Newsletter*

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### *Issue 106 - April 2004*

#### *President's Report*

Dear members and Families,

Here we are in the fourth month of 2004. On behalf of the executive committee, I wish each and every one of you a safe and peaceful year, and that good health prevails within your families.

Our AGM was conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2004 at Burwood RSL Club, and it was extremely pleasing to see so many faces, some older, some new, and especially three (3) of our newest members, well done. Very special thanks must go to our member's partners for supporting the meeting with their presence, thank you kindly.

It was great to see Clyde and Heather Cooke, now both enjoying better health. Also, our Public Officer, Fred Jolly, he also made it to the AGM after a recent stint in hospital; good stuff, and thanks Fred.

All positions were filled with the exception of Patron. I thank the members, who gave their continued support in electing me to the position of President, and also to any members who took the time to vote by proxy, which was a first under the revised Constitution, thank you very much. I would also like to thank the membership for the confidence in which they elected the Secretary, Treasurer and Committee, and many thanks to Brendan for acting in the role of returning officer.

Following the AGM, members and guests enjoyed the fellowship and repast offered by the club's restaurant, along with one or two drinks.

The sub-committee for the investigation of the written nominations for the position of Association Patron has been formed, and it is being conducted under the guidance of Brendan Robertson and Paul Handel, who graciously volunteered to act as co-chairman for this sub-committee. The inaugural meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004, and was attended by the sub-committee members to review all nominations sent to the Secretary, and a follow up meeting is to be held at the end of April.

Due to the cramped confines of the Crown Hotel on ANZAC Day, this year the reunion after the march is being held at the "Bowlers' Club of New South Wales Limited", which is in York Street. The Association has paid for "reserved seating" in the auditorium, so as to encourage a maximum attendance of our members at the new reunion venue. There is a lift available for those members that require this type of service to reach the auditorium, there will be at least one area, possibly two or three, for members to get a meal, but at this time the club has yet to determine what eateries will be open, and of course the liquid lunch will be at club prices.

There will be signs on the tables to show which tables are reserved for this Association, and Chris Davis has already made some signs, which are in RAEME colours, so they will be very easy to see, thank you Chris. The committee hopes that this venue will prove to be the best in Sydney to cater for our members, certainly space will provide far more comfort than we have been used to,

but of course, it is a longer walk than the old venue, but it is **not that far**, and it is closer to Town Hall railway station for those travelling by train. **We look forward to your support on the day.** For all the details of the venue, see the last page of this Newsletter.

Kind regards to all,

Michael O'Donohoe

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### ***From the Secretary's Desk***

My apologies that I did not attend the annual general meeting, but I had a better offer, "Queensland"! And a BIG thanks to all those people that voted me back into the secretary position. It appears that even if I wasn't there - the editor made sure that I still got the job. Thanks - Chris J (NOT)!

Thank you, thank you, thank you - to all the members that sent back their "member's detail forms". For those of you that haven't at this time - PLEASE try to remember to send them, as this is the only way to update the association records to check if you are still out there. I'm quite sure they don't get returned because they are such a good read.

NOW for the BAD NEWS. At the last committee meeting, the committee voted to raise the membership fee to \$15.00 (including GST), as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005. This is due inflation, the rising costs of publishing, packaging and posting the Newsletter, plus other costs incurred in operating this Association.

Cheers, Chris Davis

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### ***A Note from the Treasurer***

Shortly you will receive your 2004 Subscription Notice. Although you may pay on Anzac Day it is preferred you send it to the Post Office Box shown on the subscription notice so the Treasurer is not burdened with safeguarding the extra cash.

Also some members have paid extra to their subscription to help a member who has fallen on hard times and unable to pay. However it is not possible to allocate this money unless you nominate the member you are helping.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Regards, Bob Joseph

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## *New Members*

### Ordinary Members

John Green  
Colin Johnson  
John Stubbs

### Associate Members

Shirley Burgess  
Merril Prestidge  
Ann Marie Robertson

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## ***DNSDC and 5CSSB***

To all of the readers, I have some bad news!!

There will be no reports in this edition from DNSDC or 5CSSB. My two (2) trusty reporters, they being Terry Spinks and Michael Wilkinson, they have been so busy at their workplaces that they have not had time to write anything, and they ask that I apologise for them. Thank you Terry and Michael, I am sure the readers understand how it is these days with deadlines and such, particularly as both are ARES workshop ASM's, as well as their normal daily jobs.

The good news is that they have both told me that their reports in the next Newsletter will be worth waiting for.

Editor

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## ***Roving Reporter***

Do you want to read about a coach trip?

You do!!

Your roving reporter decided to do a coach trip from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2004, inclusive.

### Off to Eden

There were 36 people staying at the Coachman's Rest Motor Inn. This trip was organised by John Shay with Australia Wide (Arncliffe) Coach Company. At John's hospitality, I stayed Saturday night, thank you John.

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Departed by coach from Campbelltown Station. Morning tea was at Berry, lunch was at Mollymook Bowling Club. It was a cloudy trip to Eden, but no rain. Complimentary drink with the evening meal – excellent.

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Cat Balou boat cruise around Two Fold Bay, stopping for morning tea and to watch the Harris Daishowa wood chip operation. There were no whales or dolphins, wrong time of the year. Visit to the Whale Museum, then a B-B-Q lunch at the motel. A visit to the Eden shops, plus a tour. A complimentary drink with the evening meal – excellent.

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Breakfast overlooking the beach, followed by a visit to the Wheeler Oyster Barn at Merimbula, all very interesting. We had lunch at Tura Beach Country Club, which was followed by a tour of the countryside, then a visit to the Eden Shell Gallery. Then back to the motel to watch the 'Bold and the Beautiful'. A complimentary drink with the evening meal – excellent.

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Started with a tour of the area, followed by lunch. Visited the Tathra Dried Fruits, Art Gallery and Arts and Crafts shop at Pambula. Back to the motel to watch the 'Bold and the Beautiful'. A complimentary drink with the evening meal – excellent. Entertainment, with dancing, an enjoyable night was had by all.

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Visit to Kameruka Estate, very interesting, and then morning tea at Candel. A visit to Bega Grevillea Estate Wines, where a very nice lunch was served, and then on to the Bega Cheese Factory. A complimentary drink with the evening meal – excellent. This was also a 'Pyjama Party', and your reporter wore a 'nightshirt' – a good turnout.

### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

The journey home, with morning tea at Central Tilba Village. Then we had lunch at Bateman's Bay, and it was raining. Then the journey continued to Campbelltown Station, where we debussed from the coach.

The trip was very informative, and the staff treated us very well, and I would recommend the trip. It was a great trip! Thanks must go to John Shay in organising the trip. "Magical"

Best wishes, Lawrie

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### ***New Medal Group Update***

An urgent meeting was convened of the New Medal Group in December 2003 following concerns over recent comments reported as being made by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, the Hon Mal Brough MP.

Following that meeting the group initiated a press release for the campaign to recognise over 700,000 servicemen and women (350K Permanent members and 350K Reservists) who have received no tangible recognition by way of a medal for their service. We calculate that 9 out of 10 personnel leave the service without a medal, with the average length of service being 8 years. The long service medal is becoming an elitist medal for mainly officers and SNCO's.

The Minister, who bears responsibility for decorations, was reported as saying, that he believed servicemen and women should be recognised, but did not support the new medal, and that he did not believe the striking of a special medal would be appropriate.

A staffer from the Minister's office confirmed this comment when contacted by the media officer for the New Medal Group and *The Sydney Morning Herald's* reporter, who followed with a good story in the paper. This was then followed with articles throughout Australia.

A recognition medal is wanted – not a medallion, badge, certificate or a commemorative medal. There is no doubt that service personnel would not accept a badge or a certificate in lieu of a service medal.

We hope that the Minister reconsiders his position. Will Anderson, National Vice President of the "Injured Service Persons Association", said: "Minister Brough's disapproval of the striking of a new medal for service would deny recognition of service by those personnel who have died in Australia's military peace time accidents. Recognition of their service in the form of a medal

would be a fitting tribute which a grateful nation could bestow on the family of these men and women”.

The New Medal Group is also happy that prior to his election as Federal Labour Leader, Mr Latham indicated his personal support for the concept of a medal with members of the group.

The Federal Opposition is yet to finalise it’s policy, but as we understand, if they do support recognition it will only be by way of a medal, and certainly not a badge or any other tokenism.

### Regional Meeting

The first regional meeting of the New Medal Group was held at the East Maitland Bowling Club at 7.30 pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Other regional meetings are being planned. Other states are expected to follow before 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

### Funding

We are very pleased that since our last report donations have been received from Tumut RSL Sub Branch, J. Davis-Slade, R. Steinborn, and Taylors Arm RSL Sub Branch.

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*This has been copied from the “Reveille”, Volume 77, Number 2, March - April 2004, Page 40.  
This was requested by our President, Michael O’Donohoe, whom is on the New Medal Group Committee.*

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### ***RAEME Association NSW Inc. ANZAC Day Reunion Venue***

Due to the amount of concern about the size of the ANZAC Day Reunion venue, the committee has organised a “**new venue**”, and it is to be at the:

**“Bowlers’ Club of New South Wales Limited”  
95-99 York Street, Sydney  
Telephone is 02 92901155.**

See the map on the last page for location of the club, location of car park, and easiest walking route to the club.

**Please remember**, this is a licensed club, so all persons must sign in on arrival (unless you area member), and make sure you have some form of identification if they wish to see it. There will probably be two (2) areas to sign in, the first is at the reception area on entry to the club, and they will probably have another sign in area located at the top of the stairs near the auditorium. At this stage they are not sure about the second location, but please sign in, that way both you and the club are covered for public liability insurance in case of a mishap.

This new location has two (2) floors of usable meeting / drinking area. There is the auditorium on the upper level, which can be accessed by a lift for those members that require this type on facility, or there is a staircase in the reception area. The auditorium is the area that we have paid to reserve seating for our members, it will be clearly marked with A4 size banners, in corps colours, with RAEME Association NSW Inc. printed over the coloured surface.

The ground floor area has it’s own bar area, plenty of one bandits (poker machines) for those that

are interested, and a small courtyard at the front area, which is on the street front, and is accessed from this bar area.

Now, for the most important aspect, the drinks are at club prices, the beer is on tap, and I can assure you, the beer is cold, and it tastes very nice, as I had all of you in mind when I attended this club, on two (2) occasions, just to sample the beer, so as to be sure that you would all be satisfied – the things I do for you people!

Now, as for food, they have three (3) food serving areas. At this stage, the Chinese restaurant on the lower floor will definitely be open, the bistro which is in the auditorium area will probably be open, and the café, which is on the same floor as the auditorium, may possibly be open, but for a short duration only. At the time of printing this Newsletter, they are not 100% sure of the food arrangements, that will be decided closer to ANZAC Day, so I am sorry about that info not being 100% accurate.

Now, as for car parking locations for those that need to know this. The club has a very small underground car park, but it is not normally open on Sundays, and the entrance is behind the club in Clarence Street, but you would need to ring the club during the week closer to the day for details. The phone number is above in the first paragraph. There is a car park under the Queen Victoria Building, which is accessed by a ramp in York Street, near the corner with Market Street, and York Street is a one-way street at this end. This car park will open at 0800 hrs, and close at 2400 hrs, at a set cost of \$12.00 for the day, or part thereof. I have spoken to the management of the car park, and it will definitely be open on ANZAC Day (so they say).

*Any feed back on this venue, please direct all questions, suggestions, complaints or queries to me, as I am the organiser for this venue for the day.*

See you there on the day, Chris Jones.

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A route map is included, see the next page.

It is only a short walk from the end of the march.

