



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
ACT Incorporation No A04404  
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601 [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)  
Patron: : Brigadier David Luhrs, CSC,

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INC. HELD AT THE CHATSWOOD RSL CLUB, CHATSWOOD, NSW, ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013.**

Meeting was opened by the President at 1340hrs.

### **1. Attendees**

Lucas McGann, Neil Bennett, Owen Reynolds, Frank Maloney, Jeff Heron, Norm Wells, Ian Morris, Gary Byard, Harry Cole, Harry Hoger, Richard Pike,

### **2. Apologies**

Frank Poole, Barry Minster, Dallas Mulhall, Bill Mertin, Edward(Chips) Carpenter, Matt Bouma, Tom Ezse, David Young, David Barton, Paul Martin-Jones, Brian Daley,

### **3. Proxies**

Frank Poole, Dallas Mulhall, Brian Daley,

### **4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2012 AGM**

**Moved:** - Harry Cole      **Second:** - Frank Maloney

### **5. Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** - As per attached report. Owen Reynolds commented that our financial position was healthy and a similar position to that of the previous year.

A discussion was held about reducing the amount held in the Current Account.

Gary Byard moved a motion that \$15,000 be transferred to the Term Deposit.

Richard Pike seconded the motion.

The motion was carried by the meeting.

**President's Report:** - As per attached report. Lucas McGann thanked the Committee for their effort and support throughout the past year with a special thanks to Frank Maloney and Peter Muir for their work on Balcombe Commemoration Event. Lucas advised the meeting that he would not standing re-election at this meeting.

**Vice-Presidents Report:** - As per attached report. In Barry Minster absence Lucas read his report to the meeting in which Barry apologised for his absence and offered his congratulations to the Balcombe Commemoration Committee for a job well done. He also highlighted the AAAA Facebook Page which he commenced with some of his 20<sup>th</sup> Intake members about 12 months ago which has grown to about 250 AAAA users.

It is and will remain a closed group and it is an additional means of communicating the Greater Appy Family.

**Secretary's Report:** - I would like thank all Committee members for their assistance throughout the past year.

All the correspondence pertaining to the Balcombe Commemoration Event was handled by both Peter Muir and Frank Maloney and things relating to the Memorial at Bandiana by Frank Poole.

This in turn left me with meetings and minutes and the associated correspondence that passes across our desk.

A special thanks to Jeff Heron for stepping into the breach when I was indisposed and for his guidance in the improvement of my I.T. skills.

Neil Bennett

**Heritage Officer's Report:** - As per attached report. Norm Wells mentioned that due to World terrorism, it has brought about increased security surveillance and difficult entry regardless of previous defence service for a casual visitor beyond the boom gate into Defence Camps.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** - As per attached report. Russell Evans has reported that 19 of our fellow Apprentices have passed onto the final parade ground during the past 12 months.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** - As per attached report. Gary Byard reported that membership numbers are down on last year which generated a meeting discussion on what to do about the decrease and rounding up those Appy's who have not renewed their memberships.

The conclusion of the discussion was for Gary to draw up a list of the contact details of those that have been sent reminders and that this list shall be divided amongst the Committee Members and Regional Representatives to make contact with those listed to ascertain why their Membership has not been renewed.

**Events Manger's Report:** - As per attached report. Frank Maloney reported that the past financial year saw the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration successfully completed, there is still some outstanding financial matters to be finalised with other Corp Associations namely Signals and Survey.

Forward thinking for the next major get together would see us return to the Albury/Wodonga area towards the end of 2016 with possible theme for the event being the retrieval of the Army Apprentice School Governor General Banner from the Chapel at Latchford Barracks to a more accessible location for Apprentices.

**Webmaster's Report:** - As per attached report. Ian Morris reported that the development of the new web site was continuing with AusWebDesign (whose quote was accepted in July 2013) have created a web page which when accepted will become the template for the whole site.

Currently fine tuning of the design interactively with the designer is occurring as the right look and feel is essential for the success of the project. The payment Gateway and the additional 7000 SPAASSM photos have caused some complications along the way. Because of the problems SPAASSM has been causing with the redevelopment of the web site the decision was taken to have SPAASSM made available through Merchandising on a DVD at price of \$20.00

Moved by: Frank Maloney    Seconded by: Ian Morris    Carried:

**Memorial Sub-Committee Report:** - As per attached report. Frank Poole. In Frank's absence Lucas read his report to the meeting. The Memorial continues to develop with the gates being refurbished and a drainage problem being rectified while the seat donated by Jock McWhinney was installed.

A new brochure has been produced describing the Memorial, its history and the significance of the various elements that make up the Memorial.

Frank thanked those who allocated donations for the Memorial in their Renewals as well as those who provided assistance in the management of the Memorial Jim Hislop, Greg Mulcahy, Jeff Heron, Ian Morris, Wally Rotow and Owen Reynolds.

Following the presentation of this report, a point of order was raised by Norm Wells into the validity of the Memorial Sub-Committee.

As per the Constitution Annex A: Committee and Appointments, Part 2 – Duties of Committee Officers and Appointments 7.p. the designated Secretary of this Committee is the Heritage Officer and in this role Norm has yet to be involved in any meetings to date.

Is the Sub-Committee responsible for this activity or is one person responsible for this activity.

**Public Officer's Report:** - Ray Wilson reported that the AAAA Incorporation was renewed in August 2013

#### **The Reports as Presented be Accepted?**

Moved: Gary Byard      Seconded: Ian Morris      Carried.

**6. Standing Down of Retiring Officers:** The following Officers stood down.

President

Secretary

Events Manager

Heritage officer

Webmaster

Committee Members x 4

Membership Secretary: - Due to the resignation of the previous secretary and in accordance with the Constitution Annex A: Committee and Appointments 3e (*If there is a vacancy in the membership of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed holds office, subject to this Constitution, until the conclusion of the next AGM after the date of the Appointment.*)

#### **7. Vote of thanks to outgoing Committee Members.**

Lucas as out going President moved a vote of thanks to those Committee Members standing down for the efforts and contributions to AAAA during their time on the Committee.

#### **8. Election of Office Bearers of the Association for the next Two Years.**

**President.** Nomination: - Barry Minster

Proposed by: Frank Maloney      Seconded by: Norm Wells

There being no further nominations Barry was elected as President.

**Secretary.** Nomination: -Neil Bennett re-nominated for the position  
Seconded by: Frank Maloney  
There being no further nominations Neil was re-elected as Secretary.

**Events Manager.** Nomination: - Frank Maloney  
Proposed by: - Brian Daley      Seconded by: \_ Norm Wells  
There being no further nominations Frank was re-elected as Events Manager

**Heritage Officer.** Nomination: - Norm Wells  
Proposed by: Brian Daley      Seconded by: Frank Maloney  
There being no further nominations Norm was re-elected as Heritage Officer

**Webmaster.** Nominations: \_Ian Morris re-nominated for this position.  
Seconded by: Neil Bennett  
There being no further nomination Ian was re-elected as Webmaster.

**Membership Secretary.** Nominations: - Gary Byard nominated for this position.  
Seconded by: Neil Bennett  
There being no further nominations Gary was re-elected as Membership Secretary.

**Committee Members.** Nominations: -

Bill Mertin re-nominating for Committee  
Seconded by: Neil Bennett

Harry Cole  
Proposed by: Lucas McGann      Seconded by: Gary Byard

Harry Hoger  
Proposed by: Frank Maloney      Seconded by: Gary Byard

Richard Pike  
Proposed by: Jeff Heron      Seconded by: Ian Morris.

There being no further nominations and as the nominations received equalled the number of Committee vacancies all of the above were elected to the Committee.

Lucas as Immediate Past President welcomed the new members to the Committee.

### **Regional Representatives**

Richard Pike(NSW), Brian Daley( Sth Qld), David Young( Nth Qld), Gary Byard(Tas), Tom Ezse(WA), Frank Poole(ACT) , Matt Bouma(Vic Sth), Lucas McGann(Vic Metro), Neil Bennett(Vic East)/

### **Appointments**

Chaplain	Rev Brian Nicholls JP
Chaplain	Rev Craig Potter
Chaplain	Rev Alan Kelb OAM
Legal Advisor	Vacant
Auditor	Vacant
Honorary Trustee	Fred Millar

## **General Business**

Merchandise: - A general discussion was held on this item which saw Richard Pike volunteer his services to look after this area for the Association. Both Lucas and Frank M will forward the stock items they are currently holding to Richard a.s.a.p. Ian Morris will organise to have Richard's contact details to be put on the Website.

The subject of Membership saw a lively discussion ensued in regard to the high number of non-renewals that currently on the list with Frank M indicating that if this number is not reduced and the current trend continued then the Association may fold.

Gary B informed the meeting that Membership Renewals have been sent out to those Appy's whose membership is due for renewal. As for what follow up procedures may be implemented to try and reduce the number of non renewals, it was suggested that Gary B create lists and distribute them to the Committee Members and the Regional Representatives in an attempt to spread the volume of contact calls to be made by an individual to a minimum.

Harry Holger commented on the value of membership and whether the consideration of various levels of membership fee structure be adopted. e.g. (Gold, Silver, Bronze)

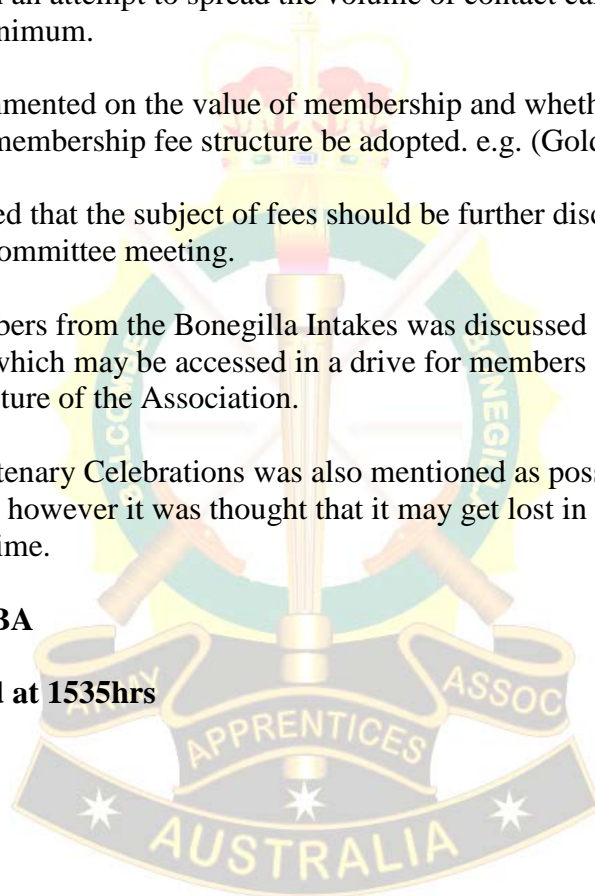
The meeting agreed that the subject of fees should be further discussed as an agenda item at the next Committee meeting.

Membership numbers from the Bonegilla Intakes was discussed and as there is a website for these Intakes which may be accessed in a drive for members from these Intakes as they will be the future of the Association.

The ANZAC Centenary Celebrations was also mentioned as possible opportunity for a membership drive however it was thought that it may get lost in all the activities that will be occurring at that time.

**Next Meeting. TBA**

**Meeting Closed at 1535hrs**



**From:** Frank Maloney [frmal@bigpond.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2013 12:44 PM

**To:** Brian & Barbara Daley; Jeff Heron; Frank Poole; Greg Mulcahy; Fred Millar; jock@mcwhinney.com.au; Peter Muir; 'Gary Byard'; Lucas McGann; Ray Wilson; Frank Maloney; Norman Wells; Bill Mertin; Craig Potter; Bill Van Ree; Barry Minster; Sue and Bryan Nicholls; Ian Morris; Alan Kelb; Tom Esze; Owen Reynolds; 'Neil Bennett'

**Cc:** Jim Hislop

**Subject:** Events Annual Report 2012 / 2013

**EVENT MANAGER REPORT FOR 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF AAAA  
CHATSWOOD RSL 13.30 HRS, 19 OCTOBER 2013**

This past financial year saw the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration successfully completed. It seems to be regarded as probably the best event that AAAA has conducted, it was certainly the most complex to put together.

A detailed report is to be found at the AAAA website and Facebook so I don't intend to elaborate further on it.

It appears to be generally agreed that the 2015 reunion will see us return to the Albury / Wodonga area towards the end of that year. Points of significance If I have this correct, then 1995 will be the first year since 1948 that there was not an apprentice intake. One thought regarding the theme of that gathering could be the retrieval of the Army Apprentice School Governor General Banner from the Chapel at Latchford Barracks to a more accessible location by Apprentices if we are fortunate to gain approval. I believe that we should resubmit our request to the Army in a much expanded and informative format

I thought the usual gathering of the troops at the Memorial / Army museum on the Friday, with Saturday comprising a "trade day" hosted by ASEME with say a BBQ lunch at their premises at Latchford, followed by a reunion dinner in Wodonga / Albury. A remembrance service and wreath laying at the AAAA Memorial Bandiana South would complete the weekend.

This is just the outline of an event and it would require lots of fill in activities etc to add to the entertainment and encouragement to attend.

Lively discussion will hopefully produce an outline for such an event, so in preparation for the meeting, thinking caps on please.

Another good year for the AAAA,

Frank Maloney  
Events Manager

AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
CHATSWOOD NSW 19 October 2013

HERITAGE OFFICER REPORT

1. As I was seconded into the vacant Heritage Officer position midyear report on the six months activities of 2013.
2. I have long been a student of Australian Military History and following civil retirement in 1999 I took up volunteer service with the Army History Unit's sterling Army Museum of WA where I gained extensive experience in both history research and curator care of collections. I look forward to bringing my 12 years museum experience into the position of Association Heritage Officer.
3. Following my appointment earlier in the year I assisted with story board detail researching the old Mt Martha Camp and AAS Balcombe heritage. It was a big project with tight deadlines but I believe the result was a credit to our Association's hard work particularly the Project Officer Peter Muir who worked long and hard liaising with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to make it all happen on time.
4. World terrorism in recent years has brought increased security surveillance and difficult entry regardless of previous defence service for a casual visitor beyond the boom gate into Defence Camps. Visitors must be sponsored and in possession of photo ID. Be ready for the "go-away" welcome.
3. In past years the Bonegilla memorial to fallen Apprentices has been re-located to nearby our memorial gate at Bandiana with improved access. However the AAS Banner remains on display in the foyer entrance to St Peter's Chapel Bonegilla Garrison.
4. Due to the earlier mentioned security envelope over Defence establishments the Chapel is not available for casual visitor viewing and travelling discharged members of the AAS and Army School of TAFE family are not comfortably welcome to view their laid up Honourable Insignia (AAS Banner).
5. Currently your committee is working to achieve the relocation of the AAS Banner to an authorised site more easily accessible for casual visitation and viewing.
6. I look forward to manning heritage matters for the Association across the coming tenure of my appointment if successful.

Norm Wells  
AAAA Heritage Officer  
15 Oct 13

Mob 0417 945 157



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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**

**Membership Secretary Report**

**Current Membership**

The current state of the membership (as at 30 September 2013) is **508 financial members**, consisting of:

Ordinary Memberships	250
Retired Memberships	249
Associate Memberships	7
Life Memberships	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>

This is a true reflection of the financial membership members since the last report in June 2013 and a decrease of 99 compared to this time last year. The Corps and Trade dissection remains similar to previous reports.

Have not renewed for:		
Mar 09	24	
Mar-08	15	
Mar-10	7	
Sep-10	3	
Mar-11	1	
Sep-11	10	
Mar-12	10	
Sep-12	27	
Mar-13	40	
Sep-13	79	
		146

**New Members.**

A total of 37 new memberships have been processed from the reporting period 2012

**Second Half Year Actions**

Second half year follow up actions have included mailouts and emails to rekindle the interest of...

March and Sep-12	37
Mar-13	40
Sep-13	79



September 2013 is the current renewal date with 79 renewals being posted/emailed. The current renewal period will reduce some of the outstanding members. Reminders have now been posted (snail mail) to 81 ex members from March 2012 until present, who may not have received or actioned emails.

Bulk Emails have been sent in July and September to all ex members with registered email contact details. 29 were rejected and to be mailed directly.

### **Increasing Membership**

The following are suggested initiatives for the committee to consider and assist with action.

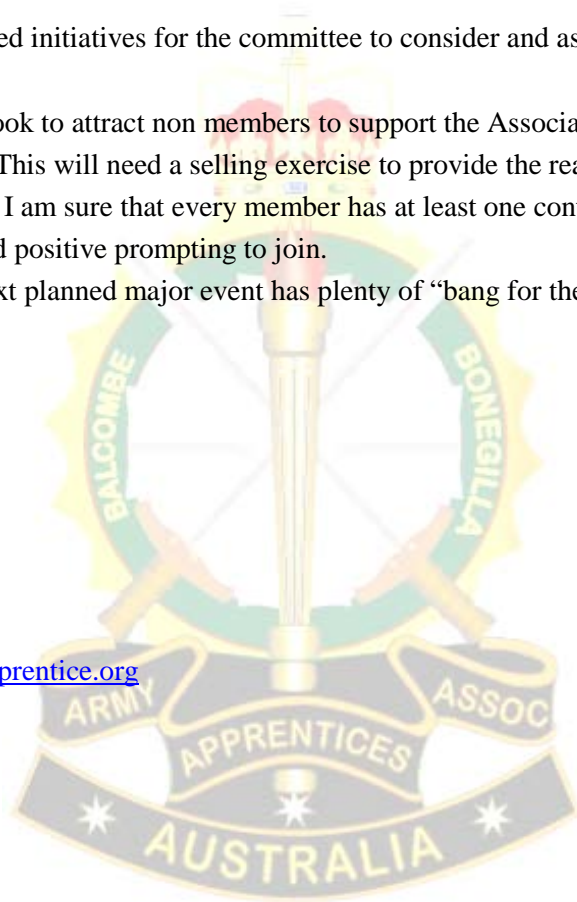
1. Utilise Facebook to attract non members to support the Association with their membership. This will need a selling exercise to provide the reason for joining.
2. Bring a Mate. I am sure that every member has at least one contact who is an “Ex” and may only need positive prompting to join.
3. Ensure the next planned major event has plenty of “bang for the buck”.

**Gary Byard (21<sup>st</sup> VM)**

**Membership Secretary**

**0407313652**

[membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:membership@austarmyapprentice.org)



## **CHAIRMAN MEMORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Australian Army Apprentice Memorial continues to be developed and attract increasing interest from visitors to the Army Museum Bandiana and passing Army Apprentices.

During the past year we have seen the reflection seat donated by Jock McWhinney installed, the gates replaced after cleaning, de-rusting and powder coating, the Memorial Wall and LEST WE FORGET built, a number of intake plaques, memorial plaques and inscribed pavers added and rectification of a drainage problem that threatened to stain the pavement.

Also during this year a brochure was produced describing the memorial and its history and explaining the significance of the various elements that make up our Memorial. To date I have distributed a supple to the Army Museum Bandiana, Membership Secretary and Secretary. Copies have been given to the Canberra Luncheon attendees, donors, Secretary DVA, Ann Martin (Facility Manager Bandiana) and a number of interested persons. All new post outs from the membership Secretary receive a copy and copies are available to anyone organising an Apprentice gathering (or who just once one!)

Over the next year I expect to negotiate for the relocation of the four KIA tablets from the intake avenue of trees at Bonagilla to the Memorial and continue to add inscribed pavers, intake plaques and memorial plaques to toe Memorial. I am also looking into producing Christmas cards featuring the Memorial that will be available through our memorabilia officer.

I also hope to investigate the feasibility of incorporating recognition of countries where Apprentices have been posted, either as combat or non-combat areas.

I must also thank the Apprentices who included a donation to the Memorial with their membership fees and particularly a number of Apprentices who donated significant specific donations. These will help ensure we can continue to improve our Memorial and ensure that for the future that Army Apprentices are not forgotten but will live as part of Australian Military history.

My thanks for the assistance provided to me in the management of the Memorial by Jim Hislop, Greg Mulcahy, Jeff Heron, Ian Morris, Wally Rotow and Owen Reynolds.

Apprentices are reminded that if they wish to have a memorial plaque placed on the school wall, or have their ashes scattered in the pit of the Memorial on their passing out, then they must let their NOK know and to complete an application for a Memorial plaque and leave with their will before Graduation.

Frank Poole

Chairman, Australian Army Apprentices Memorial Sub-Committee.

October 2013

## **AAAA Public Officers Report**

The AAAA Incorporation was renewed in August 2013.

Ray Wilson

Public Officer

# *The Australian Army Apprentices' Association*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of the Association's financial position as at

30 June 2013 is as follows:

### **INVESTED FUNDS**

The balance of Association funds held on term deposit or investment on behalf of the

Association is \$21,849.76

### **TRANSACTIONS**

#### **Income**

YTD income from all sources is \$91,367.26

Un deposited funds held as cash on hand is \$Nil

#### **Expenditure**

YTD Expenditure for all purposes is \$86,885.59

Accounts payable not yet included in the above total are \$Nil

### **CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE**

Balance (Bank Statement dated 30 June 2013) is \$34,637.43

Comment: Currently we are 1,687.00 ahead for the Balcombe Gates function; however, we have around \$2.5K in un-presented cheques. There has been no change to this situation to the end of the financial year.

Separating administration expenses from event expenses for Balcombe Gates function is problematic and will be discussed, if requested at the AGM.

Owen Reynolds

# *The Australian Army Apprentices' Association*

TREASURER  
16 June 2013



From: Barry Minster [bminster@icloud.com]  
Sent: Thursday, 10 October 2013 6:59 PM  
To: Barry mail Minster  
Subject: Vice President's report to AGM

Vice President's report to AGM  
October 19th 2013

Firstly I apologise for not being present in Sydney to represent the committee at the annual general meeting.

I wish to report on the past twelve months in which I have been honoured to hold the position of Vice President of our association.

Since accepting this position, I have been able to be a part of several important projects and events.

The association has successfully held a Balcombe Memorial Gates weekend, which involved outside organisations. I will not need to expand on this event as I know it is being dealt with by others more closely associated. Suffice to say, I was pleased to volunteer my services as a driver and host for our US Marine guest Colonel John Stephens and his wife Jody.

I will however offer my congratulations to the event committee.

Other areas which have drawn my attention are the revised AAAA Internet web site.

Again I have been across all developments but have chosen to leave the design to "younger" and more experienced members of the group.

It is essential we upgrade our Internet presence on a regular basis.

The singular area in which I have had a large impact is in the Social Media zone.

Being a retired Signaller and with over forty years in television broadcasting, I am a strong believer that communications are essential to any organisation surviving.

FACEBOOK is one of many social media tools available.

More than 12 months ago I began an AAAA Facebook page primarily with around 25 of my fellow 20th intake members.

It is and will remain a CLOSED GROUP and to join, a person has to request membership.

This ensures we have a level of privacy.

Since October 2012 to now it has grown to approximately 250 Facebook AAAA users.

The actual online activity is not high but often comments appear which gain replies from across the intakes as well as across the world.

It connects people.

Considering it is still in its infancy, I expect it to continue to grow and offer a common contact point for all Army Apprentices and their families.

In closing, I thank the members for allowing me to serve them and I am happy to offer my ongoing service in what ever capacity I may be able to assist.

Barry Minster J.P.  
20th Radio Mechanic  
Melbourne Victoria.

Sent from my iPad



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## **AAAA INC AGM 2013**

### **WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

For some time we had been aware that the website, while serving its purpose, was becoming very dated and needed a new modern look. Most of the content was still relevant but the user interface definitely needed updating both for appearances sake and to take advantage of new technologies and to permit the integration of a Payment gateway and the SPASSM photos.

#### **Website Redevelopment**

In January 2013 a development team was set up (Ian Morris, Craig Malcolm and Jeff Heron) to work up a suitable prototype for our new website. Concurrently Jeff produced a specification for the website which was accepted by the committee. In March 2013 discussions were held with four website design companies. Three of these organisations were in Canberra and one in NSW. Responses varied from a detailed written quote to over the phone estimates. Our understanding of these quotes is that the re-development of a large website like ours is quite straight forward and can be done for \$2000 to \$3000. Data migration may add to this cost. The payment Gateway and additional 7000 SPAASSM photos tend to complicate matters and thus increase the price. WordPress in most cases was the preferred software for the project although Joomla and a proprietary system were also mentioned. In early July we accepted a quote from AusWebDesign and work commenced. A Test and Acceptance team (Ian Morris, Jeff Heron, Lucas McGann, Gary Byard, Barry Minster) was established to oversee the development process.

#### **Current Status**

AusWebDesign has created a web page which when accepted will become the template for the whole site. We are currently refining the design interactively with the designer. The right look and feel is essential to the success of the project. work will continue over the next few months.

#### **Website Routine Maintenance**

Vale notices, new events, records updates, system changes and fault correction continued to be time consuming (but necessary) activities.

Ian Morris

Webmaster

15 Oct 2013



**REPORT**  
**WELFARE OFFICER**  
**AGM 2013**

To date, 19 deaths have been reported to the Association in the calendar year 2013. This compares with 2012 when 32 deaths were reported. The reporting for 2013 has been spread intermittently between classes 6 through 33, (please see below) and 2012 classes 1 through 48. The association was also advised of the passing of some graduates from earlier years, but these numbers have been recorded under the year of death (if known) or as unknown as the case may be, and have not been included in the 2013 reporting period.

The trade most represented in the above stats is Vehicle Mechanic, with 11 for 2013 and 14 for 2012 respectively.

Class breakdown for 2013

Class	Number	Trade	
6	1	VM	11
7	2	F & T	3
9	3	Plumber	1
11	2	Clerk	1
12	1	Musician	1
13	2	Elec	1
15	1	RM	1
18	1		
19	1		
21	1		
24	1		
27	1		
30	1		
33	1		

Russell Evans  
Welfare Officer  
16 Oct 2013





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Date: October 2013

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This AGM while not being the end of the calendar year is the end of the Association's year and a lot has happened this year. Not the least of which was the hugely successful Balcombe Commemoration. My sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the event in particular Peter Muir and Frank Maloney. The MPSC are also to be congratulated and thanked for their assistance and input to the weekend's events for without their input things would have been much tougher. The Balcombe Grammar School did themselves proud, but this was never in doubt given the leadership and grace displayed by their Principal Matthew Dodd.

The Association website is getting a makeover and should be up and running soon. A lot of work has gone into the process and Ian Morris and Jeff Heron are to be congratulated on their effort so far.

This year also saw the emergence of an Association Facebook Group. Initially started by our Vice President Barry Minster prior to him coming on to the Committee, Barry kindly invited the Association in. The current group number is 260 and rising. Add to this the existence of a Bonegilla Facebook group which has in excess of 450 members and the various intake groups, there is an opportunity for communication and to make the non Association members aware of our activities.

There has been much talk within Committee ranks as to the 'theme' of the next major function hosted by the Association. I am loath to commit here to getting up the hopes of the membership but the function will be inclusive and representative of all intakes, regardless of theme or location. If you have not attended one of the Association's major functions, make sure you get to the next one and I guarantee you will leave on an emotional high. At Balcombe seeing grown men with tears in their eyes as they met old mates, sometimes for the first time in 20, 30 or 40 years left me feeling that we are doing a good thing. So regardless of theme or location, make the effort and get along to the next one.

My position as President is up for election at this year's AGM and I have notified the Committee of the Association that I will not be standing for re-election. The weight of work commitments and the priority of a young family do not allow me the time required to carry out the duties of President to a level that is acceptable for an Association with 600 members. I would like to give my deep thanks to our previous Presidents Frank Poole and Barry Teal. Their counsel and support was more than appreciated and there were times that without it I am not sure how things would have turned out. I feel very fortunate to have met these two gentlemen and I feel privileged to call them friends. Thank you. To Brig. Dave Luhrs, our Patron, thank you for all your support and input over the last two years. I am sure the Committee will never again have their meetings at Patterson Hall Duntroon. To all the Committee that I have had the privilege to have met and worked with and shared a sherbet with, thank you all, in particular Neil Bennett our Secretary and Owen Reynolds our Treasurer. I wish every success to the incoming Committee and new President.

Thank you to all our members who pay their subscriptions to keep this most worthwhile organization running and to all those who contacted me offering gratitude for our efforts. Make sure when you get your renewal notices you get them back before it slips your mind, for without a solid membership base we will not be able to survive.

Through the Association's existence I have been able to get back in contact with friends that I had not seen since leaving Balcombe and experienced the great happiness that goes along with this. So finally I would like to thank the founders of this Association as I and many others are indebted to you for your efforts.

Sincerely

Lucas McGann  
President AAAA Inc.

