



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

**Patron:** Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM, Chief of Army

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD  
IN CANBERRA ON 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

The Committee meeting was held at the Officer's Mess Royal Military College Duntroon at 1400 hrs and was opened by the President.

**Present**

Frank Poole	President
Owen Reynolds	Treasurer
Craig Malcolm	Membership Secretary
Geoff Martin	Heritage Officer
Ian Morris	Webmaster and Chair SPAASSM
Frank Maloney	Events Manager
Neil Churches	Committee member and Apprentices Together 2011 Co-ordinator
Jock McWhinney	Committee member and Chair Benzene Project
Jeff Heron	Committee Member

**Welcome and Introductions**

The President welcomed the incoming committee and the new members @

Owen Reynolds	Treasurer
Lucas McGann	Secretary
Ian Morris	Webmaster and Chair SPAASSM
Neil Churches	Committee Member and Local Co-ord for Apprentices Together 2011
Michael Farrer	Committee member (not attending)
Jock McWhinney	Committee Member and Chair Benzene Project

**Apologies**

LtGen Ken Gillespie  
Lucas McGann  
Bill Merton  
"Chips" Carpenter  
Fred Millar  
Jack Westernhagen  
Russell Evans  
Greg Mulcahy

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting posted on the web site were accepted as posted.

Frank Maloney  
Geoff Martin

## Reports

The following reports are attached

### President

1. The President briefed the meeting on his meeting the previous day with the Patron LtGen Ken Gillespie
2. The Apprentice About. It was agreed that we should trial replacing The President's Update with a quarterly journal. Frank and Craig to work on the first edition. Contributions should be sent to Frank.
3. The President expressed disappointment with the lack of activity from Regional Representative and stated he would be concentrating on this over the next few months.

### Vice-President

It was agreed that the Association should have a wall plaque available to members. A new manufacturer has been found and \$150 was made available to Jack to pay for the set up for manufacture.

### Treasurer

Financial Statements attached.

The bank balance currently stands at \$24,000. However, as many membership renewals are for three years, those membership fees must be set aside. Donations to the Memorial are also included in this amount. President suggested that we open an interest bearing term deposit to cover these advanced fees.

This was agreed with Craig agreeing to provide at the next Committee Meeting an estimate of the amount needed to be set aside.

Frank Poole  
Craig Malcolm

### Membership Secretary

1. Craig noted that the on-line membership and management system was still being developed by Ian Branch in Melbourne. The Committee asked Craig to pass a vote of thanks to Ian for his work.
2. Craig raised the issue of a Privacy Statement for the Association. After discussion it was decided that our Legal Advisor be consulted to determine the need for the Association to have a Statement and if needed the implications and suitability of the draft Craig provided.
3. Craig briefed on the activities of Wally Rotow, whose report is attached, in relation to updating Apprentice records. The President

recorded a vote of thanks to Wally for his work to “set the records straight”.

Craig  
Geoff

#### Webmaster

The committee congratulated Ian for his effort with the web site and reiterated the importance of the site to the Association

#### Welfare Officer

Report provided

#### Events Manager

1. Frank M. stated that it was difficult for him to manage Apprentices Together 2011 from Brisbane and thanked Neil for acting as a local co-ordinator for him.
2. It was noted that the 101 Fd Workshop Reunion clashes with Apprentices Together 2011. Frank to speak to Peter Muir 25<sup>th</sup> intake to see if the conflict can be resolved.

#### Heritage Officer

- 1, Balcombe gates precinct development: Geoff to organise a meeting of interested parties following the next committee meeting.
2. With the number of dead trees in the Bonegilla memorial avenue and the inability to adequately water the remaining trees, the neglected state of the intake plaques and the increased security preventing Apprentices from visiting the area, it was decided that the best option was to relocate the intake plaques to the Apprentice memorial. The Association cannot afford to replace the existing trees with drought resistant strains and funds aren't available through Army. The President will advise members of this decision and the reasons before going ahead. Maj. Graham Anderson has offered assistance from the RAEME Corps Association in their relocation.

#### Chairman, Memorial Sub-Committee

1. Frank requested \$2500 from memorial funds for the fabrication and fitting of the schools names and dates to the wing walls.  
Agreed
2. Frank noted that now the memorial had reached this stage there was a need for promoting memorial plaques and interment. Russell and Frank to determine an appropriate approach.
3. Frank thanked those many members who were contributing to the memorial when they renewed membership. The response has far exceeded expectations and will enable all work to be completed earlier than planned.
4. To add pavers to the courtyard is proving to be ridiculously expensive and an alternative of an engraved plate secured to the

pavers or the possibility of in-situ engraving is to be investigated by Greg.

Chairman, SPAASSM

1. With seven binders to go, consideration of a suitable handover of folders and electronic catalogue to the Army Museum and a thank you to the AWM should be made. Frank told the meeting that he had approached the Chief of Army and he had agreed to host this event. Frank to liaise with Capt Mike Smith and Ian for a suitable date and format.
2. Work needs to be done to put SPAASSM on the web site to enable members to build up the captions to the catalogued images.
3. A decision is needed as to how to handle the images, DVDs and videos that are being handed over.

Chairman, Benzene Project

The questionnaire to seek basic information on Apprentices who have or had a cancer and were exposed to benzene is being beta tested and will be on the web site shortly. Information will be in the Apprentice About.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Southern Queensland  
 Australian Capital Territory  
 Northern Territory  
 Tasmania

## General Business.

### Motions:

*The AAAA establish a standing sub committee to deal with, and report on, all matters affecting the retirement benefits of its members.*

Moved: Frank Maloney    Seconded: Frank Poole

### Discussion:

The current furore regarding the indexation of pensions re DFRB and DFRBF is a most contentious issue which has attracted attention from a very significant sector of the Defence community.

Leading the battle amongst the aligned ESO (ex service organizations) is the DFWA ( Defence Force Welfare Association) which whilst having been around for years, is now a most dynamic organization, under the stewardship of Col. David Jamison, AM (Retd). They have been most proactive on the Indexation issue and others, in recent months. I commend you all to visit the DFWA website, [www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au) and strongly think about membership. Like AAAA,

the annual subs is less than a slab of beer and as we know membership growth and the funds that go with it, is everything.

As a member of the RSL I am aware that it is still getting the issue through its excessively cumbersome bureaucratic structure and has yet to announce its policy on the issue. The next election will probably have come and gone before we hear from them.

In addition the unaligned groups around the country have also been most vocal. They have embarked upon identifying federal MHRs' who are most at risk, ie holding their seats by a small majority (examples are those mentioned in the attachment) and they are already running scared, as are many others around the country.

I believe that AAS produced about 8000 soldier tradespersons and I would think that at least 25% would have completed 20 years service, thus captured by DFRB / DFRBF superannuation schemes, and are victims of pension indexation gross discrimination. The issue is much bigger than AAS, in that it affects thousands of ex service Defence personnel; ARA, RAN, RAAF and Commonwealth Public Service superannuates.

So what should the AAAA do?

1. Sit on the fence and do nothing, taking comfort from the fact that the battle appears to be waged by capable people and organizations, and hope for a favourable result, or
2. Get involved, in the interests of our members who are the innocent victims of this grossly unfair structure.

The purpose of this email is to suggest that AAAA become active on this issue without delay.

I propose that having accepted the issue worthy of our support,

- a. We establish a project sub committee.
- b. Seek to develop a Strategic Partnership arrangement with the DFWA, in a manner similar to the RAR Association.
- c. Maximize our Website to strongly show our involvement to the AAAA members.
- d. Seek their active participation with the project by all means available.

Finally, I am aware that a number of our existing committee members are already engaged with the issue through various forums, and the

DFWA. An alliance with DFWA can only add horsepower to their efforts, and our own.

After some discussion it was decided that the Association should declare its hand and support the efforts of the major players.

Passed

Frank Maloney offered to represent the Association in this matter and his offer was accepted.

Motion

*That the Association consider the creation of an Apprentices Prayer, along the lines outlined below, and that the Prayer be formally incorporated in the Association records*

Moved: Frank Maloney    Seconded: Frank Poole

**Discussion:**

Such a prayer could be placed in the Constitution and incorporated in appropriate activities and gatherings. I feel sure that it would be most acceptable to the members at large.

Logically, it would follow that the creation of the prayer ought be undertaken by our Association Chaplains, and it could contain reference to:

1. Who we were and where did we come from, our varied backgrounds
2. How we bonded and were trained, Balcombe and Bonegilla are critical words for inclusion
3. Where we served, what we did and how we advanced in the Army, in civilian life, and thus the nation at large.
4. Define the spirit that calls us together now, to join with one another, and rejoice in the knowledge of a job and duty well done.
4. Where to from now, and for those in our family that follow us, they must remember us for who we were.

After considerable discussion on the matter of a “prayer” or “ode” and “god” the motion was narrowly passed. The Association chaplains to be asked by Frank Maloney to compose a suitable non-denominational “statement” and advice on it’s appropriate name and use for consideration at the next Committee Meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held in Anzac House Melbourne at 1100 hrs on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Jack and Lucas to organise.

A meeting of interested parties will be held at Balcombe gates on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April to further the Balcombe Gates precinct project, Geoff Martin to coordinate.

**Meeting closed at 1730**

**Frank Poole**

**President 28 Feb 2010**

### **Attached Reports**

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Welfare Officer  
Heritage Officer  
Chair Benzene Project  
Chair Memorial Sub-Committee  
Wally Rotow  
Canberra Region  
South East Queensland Region  
NT Region  
Tasmania

