



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ACT Incorporation No A04404

GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601 www.austarmyapprentice.org

Patron: Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM, Vice Chief of the Defence Force

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE - 23 DECEMBER 2007

Firstly, I would like to extend to all Apprentices and their families from myself and the Committee, the very best of Christmas cheer and hopes for a happy and healthy New Year.

This will be quite an exciting Update as aside from some general news we have now three significant projects under way; SPAASSM (the digitizing and cataloguing of the Army Museum Apprentice image collection), the planning for celebrations commemorating 60 years since the formation of the Army Apprentices School and the planning for an Apprentice memorial.

First, some general news:

1. 10th intake 50th graduation reunion. This was a most successful event conducted by Barry Teal and his merry men at Hume resort. There were about 45 Apprentices plus spouses in attendance, and as a 10th man myself, I can confirm a good time was had by all with future reunions already in the planning stage. It was unfortunately dampened by the sad news of our class mate Bob Raine being very seriously ill, our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and Rosalie and his family.
2. Greg Mulcahy in investigating Public Liability insurance for the Association. This will extend to all functions conducted by the Association and will enable any member who is planning any event to be covered, providing the Committee is made aware of it and it is recorded in the Committee meeting minutes as an Association event. It will cover guests but non-member Apprentices may have to pay a small additional levy for "event" membership.
3. The web site will shortly have a price list and pictures for memorabilia available through Jack Westernhagen.

SPAASSM

1. We unfortunately and unexplainably missed out on a grant we had applied for from the National Library. Considerable effort was spent researching and preparing the application and we were confident that we would have had some success. Perhaps we weren't green, multi-cultural or "arty" enough!
2. We had a constructive meeting with the AWM to update on where we were and to confirm our dedication for this project and to thank them for their help, support and work space.
3. We are still waiting to see if any funding is available from Army. Unfortunately, the Army History section has been hit hard this years and does not have any funds left, but we live in hope of someone finding a couple of dollars somewhere.
4. As a result of the above, it was resolved to start looking for commercial sponsorship and to commence digitizing with the resources we already have. Canon has been kind enough to loan a scanner. We still need a suitable mid to high-end computer with dual core processor, 2 Gb Ram, 2 x 250 Gb HD, DVD burner, mid/high performance graphics card, USB2.0 and running Windows XP or Vista. If anyone can help please contact me or Peter Thornton on peterthornton@grapevine.net.au.
5. If anyone can provide a corporate sponsor contact that I can "put the bite on", please let me know. We are also looking for any contribution members may like to make which can be passed to the Treasurer, marked "for SPAASSM", and we are still looking for some local Canberra volunteers to assist Peter and his small crew.

60th Celebrations of the Start of the Army Apprentices Scheme and the School.

1. At the last Committee Meeting, the Committee approved and applauded Frank Maloney's suggestion of a celebration to commemorate the start of the Army Apprentices Scheme and the School at Balcombe. It also gratefully accepted Frank's offer to co-ordinate the activity and generally accepted the draft program that Frank had proposed.
2. The area chosen is the Albury/Wodonga area for a number of reasons, and the date will be the weekend 24-26 October 2008.
3. Our Patron, General Gillespie has signified that he will be there, both as a member of his intake and to carry out any duties we require of him.
4. At this early stage, and with some aspects to be confirmed, the following draft program will give some idea of what you can expect and enable members to put dates into their diaries and start speaking within your intake groups.
 - a. Friday 24 Oct 2008. Meet and greet registration, continuous BBQ and bar, memorabilia sales, accommodation registration, informal intake get-togethers and official welcome.
 - b. Saturday 25 Oct 2008. AM. Grand parade exercising the right of the Apprentices School for freedom of the city (We have yet to confirm whether this is Albury or Wodonga); with drums beating, flags flying and bayonets fixed. There will be an official salute and a wreath laying. This will be by intake contingents

with an ex-staff contingent, band, our Banner, and our elderly and incapacitated being transported in vehicles. The parade arrangements will be under the care of Capt Stephen Hladio, our Association Secretary.

PM. Afternoon free for recovery or site seeing or visiting the Army Museum.

Evening. Dinner at the Albury Convention Centre. Intakes can make up their own tables.

Official speeches and presentations.

c. Sunday 26 October 2009. AM. Church service and dedication of Army Apprentice Memorial or the Memorial site at Bandianna in the memorial gardens opposite Army Museum. This will be followed by BBQs under intake arrangements or utilizing a central BBQ hosted by local Services clubs and Associations. Visit the Army Museum and see the Apprentice display plus other excellent Army exhibits.

PM. Dispersal.

5. Frank Maloney will be putting out more detail as arrangements firm, so watch our web site for the latest development. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if:
 - a. Intakes could organise representatives for Frank to deal with for various arrangements.
 - b. Join the Association to alleviate insurance variations, to give us operating funds, to ease communications and to make you feel good! Membership form is attached. Membership falls due on 1 March and all new membership will have next years membership included.
 - c. Be prepared to commit yourself so that we can start gathering numbers for catering, parade space, transport etc by April.
 - d. If you are able then put up your hand when Frank or one of his Committee asks for assistance.

Army Apprentices Memorial

1. It has been decided that the Association should organise the design, construction and maintenance of a memorial for all Apprentices, and a sub-committee consisting of Frank Poole, Chris Moon and Greg Mulcahy was appointed. At this early stage it is envisaged that the Memorial will incorporate the following elements, subject to approval by the relevant authorities.
 - a. The back gates from Balcombe that are now at the entrance to the former Apprentices School/Army TAFE at Latchford Barracks, along with the duplicate brass plates of the plates on the Balcombe front gates.
 - b. Brick wing walls flanking the gates which will contain the brass plates and other dedication and history plates. Apprentices lost in action will also be recognized here.
 - c. A raised memorial garden in the centre of the site surmounted by a 2 metre high Apprentice badge.
 - d. The facility for Apprentices (and their spouses?) to have their ashes scattered over the memorial garden and a memorial tablet let into the gate wing walls.
 - e. Flanking gardens leading to the memorial.
 - f. Dependant upon the fate of Latchford, the memorial for fallen Apprentices in front of the chapel and the plates in front of the intake trees in the memorial drive at Latchford could also be preserved appropriately by incorporation in the memorial.
2. A site has been chosen in the Memorial Park opposite the Army Museum at Bandianna between the RAEME and Transport memorials. This site was chosen NOT for its proximity to Latchford but that this site provides maintenance and security, access to Apprentices and their families at any time, appropriateness with the RAEME and Transport memorials, BBQ and picnic facilities for families, opposite the Army Museum that houses the Apprentice heritage and the general co-operation we have met from the Memorial Park trustees and the ambiance of the site. We will know in early January whether we can have this site but indications are most favourable.
3. **Funding.** As the design has not been finalized we do not yet have a budget. However, the following avenues will be explored (exploited!!);
 - a. DVA
 - b. Army
 - c. Corporate donation
 - d. Service Associations
 - e. Sale of "bricks"
 - f. Donation of material (bricks, soil, cement, metal work etc)
 - g. Donation or assistance with manufacture of Apprentice badge and memorial plates.
 - h. Donation of transport and lifting equipment.
 - i. Donation of trade time. It would be most appropriate if the memorial was designed and constructed by Apprentices. In this case we would be looking for working parties probable in September 2008.
 - j. Cash donations. It is envisaged that donations of \$1000 or more would be acknowledged on a construction plate incorporated into the memorial.
4. Financial control. A separate sub-account will be maintained for the Memorial construction and its subsequent maintenance. Anyone wishing to contribute may send their donation to the Treasurer endorsed for the Memorial Fund.

This is a most important Update and I would appreciate it if all recipients could resend to any other Apprentices that you keep in touch with. It will be posted on the web site, as is all Updates and Minutes of Meetings.

A final plea, if any Apprentice has items of heritage value that you “saved” from Balcombe or Latchford, you may like to consider donating them to the Apprentice exhibit at the Army Museum at Bandianna. Contact Jim Hislop if you can help.

Well, that’s about it for now, we have an exciting and busy year in front of many of the Committee. Again, Happy Christmas to you and yours and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Regards to all, and don’t forget to join the Association, Membership Form attached or able to be downloaded from the web site

Regards

Frank

Frank Poole

President,

Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

