



## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

**20 June 2008**

It has been some time since I sent out my last Update and much has happened in this time. I will not repeat what has been posted to the website but confine this Update with matters coming up and those of concern to the Association.

### **SPAASSM**

This is a success story for the Association and Peter and his crew deserve great praise. Thanks also go to Army for supporting this project. The current stage reached is that the bulk of images and documents have now been digitised. Army agreed to support a last minute increase in the work when the Army Museum found another batch of images and videos. You will soon be able to see the results of SPAASSM on the web site when they are posted to enable Apprentices to identify uncatalogued images. A selected number of videos and images will be played as background during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner in October, and we also hope to have a DVD/CD available for all attendees.

### **Apprentice Memorial**

I have posted the latest information about the Memorial onto the web site, including the design drawings.

Unfortunately, funding is not coming in as well as I had expected. You will see on the web site the assistance and funding we have received to date.

PLEASE assist me in raising the funds necessary to complete the Memorial in time for the dedication on 26<sup>th</sup> October. You can help by:

Buying pavers; see the web site for details.

Contribute cash as an intake or personal donation.

Advise me of contact details of key personnel you know in industry and commerce who I can write to for a donation or sponsorship.

If you are a bricklayer, contribute your time to build the brickwork of the Memorial. Footings will be laid beforehand.

If you can help with:

Manufacture of wall plaques in bronze, brass or stainless steel.

Manufacture of the two camp signs to go on the wall (see designs on web site).

Printing of the Memory Book

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Frank Maloney has these well in hand with interesting and memorable events planned over the weekend. The program to date can be found on the Association web page.

We know from the straw poll conducted before the Committee undertook this project that there was high interest across the Apprentice community. However, as we should have expected, responses are slow in coming in. PLEASE get your registrations in as early as possible as we need to know numbers for ordering memorabilia items, bags, printing, CDs and catering and we need registration fees for payment of deposits. Some intakes are right on target with a number of tables booked for the dinner, but others are yet to be heard from, particularly the later intakes.

If anyone knows of companies or corporations who would like to be identified with the celebrations, then there are a number of items that can be offered as sponsorship; these include bags, printing, name tags, dinner banners etc.

### **Annual General Meeting**

To take advantage of the gathering of members for the Meet and Greet on Friday 24 October, it is planned to hold the AGM at 1530 on that day. More on this later.

Congratulations to our Patron, LTGEN Ken Gillespie who will shortly take up his new appointment as Chief of Army. I am sure we all feel pride at his success and I wonder were else in the Western World would an Army Apprentice bricklayer rise to command the Army!!

Well that about it for now. There is a lot more news and information on the Web site, which is so well maintained by Rod. The sad part is the increasing size of our Vale page.

FINALLY, SEE IF YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THE MEMORIAL IN ANY WAY AND SPREAD THE NEWS AMONG YOUR INTAKES AND OTHER APPRENTICE GROUPS AND GET YOUR REGISTRATIONS IN. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE ONLY LIMITED SEATS FOR THE DINNER AND ITS STRICTLY FIRST IN FIRST SERVED.

Regards to all, keep well and safe

*Frank*

President, Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc.