



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, Chief of Army

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2009

Greetings all, and belated good wishes to you and your family for 2009.

I had hoped to have this Update out well before this time but hospitalisation and family difficulties have restricted my time.

A lot has happened that I need to advise members of and I ask that you all read this Update and take any action that may be appropriate for you.

Firstly, I thank all members, non-members and local Bandiana area and Army Museum Defence staff who assisted in the conduct of the 60th Anniversary celebrations at Albury/Bandiana in October last year and especially to Frank Maloney for his leadership of the organizing sub-committee. The celebrations were unarguable the most ambitious and successful event ever held by Army Apprentices and enjoyed by over 800 attendees. A really great DVD of the whole event is available from Jack Westernhagen, excellent value for \$40.00, check the web site for orderi

The Australian Army Apprentice Memorial was dedicated as part of the 60th Anniversary and is now a permanent reality and an important part of the Memorial Park at Bandiana opposite the Army Museum. Its construction was able to be accomplished within 12 months as a result of generous financial support from commerce, industry, DVA, RAEME and RAE Associations and trade schools, intakes and individual Apprentices. We still have much work to complete the Memorial, such as the rose gardens, flag pole, foundation donors' plaques, memorial wall and the BALCOMBE and BONEGILLA names for the walls. At the last Committee Meeting a Memorial Sub-committee was formed to manage the Memorial and coordinate the essential fund raising for the necessary work. There is lots of information regarding the memorial on our web site.

SPAASSM is progressing with a small working group meeting each week to catalogue and file images and printed matter. We have reached a stage now where we can use additional help with clerical type work and any Canberra member who can spare some time is asked to contact Ian Morris on 02 62413875 or nuages@apex.net.au.

Frank Maloney has swapped duties with Barry Teal and is now Events and Social Officer and has been charged with forming a sub-committee to organise the next Association National event in 2011. Anyone wishing to help Frank is invited to contact him on 07 3374 1916/0418 728181 or frmal@bigpond.com.

Barry Teal is now Promotions and Media Officer and is currently working on producing a more informative journal with a wider interest and appeal than my Updates and will be called *The Apprentice About*. Barry will be looking for advertisers and contributions from members on what they are doing now, particularly from serving Apprentices.

Paul Martyn-Jones JP joins the Committee as NSW Regional Representative.

Membership is now due for most members and a notice will be shortly going out by email and snail mail. Please pay promptly as we need funds to continue the work of the Association. Also, please promote the Association to non-members to encourage new membership.

We have a number of Committee members who, for various reasons, have had to resign their positions and I sincerely thank those members who have filled these positions for their help and advice. This is quite normal for an Association like ours and is caused by relocation, new work responsibilities and changing domestic situations. **We need members to fill the following positions and your serious consideration of your ability to fill these positions is asked. If you are able to take on any of the tasks please notify me on 02 62882884/0416 193387 or frank.poole@grapevine.com.au as soon as possible. The positions to be filled are:**

Secretary
Membership Secretary (new position)
Heritage Officer
Committee Member
Tasmanian Regional Representative.

The Treasurer and the Public Officer are both due for re-election at the next AGM and someone may be interested in seeking election to these positions. **I stress again the importance that these positions are filled at an early date.**

I was able by using post code regions to locate all (I hope) of our members who were affected by the Victorian bush fires and the North Queensland floods to offer support from the Association. Although we had a few members affected, some very seriously, all were coping but appreciated the offer of support. Only members could be contacted but I am aware that a number of non-members also suffered, some very tragically and to all I offer my own and the Associations hope that recovery is swift, although I know some will never recover from their loses and I offer sincere condolences.

Well, that's enough from me. Don't forget to check the web site for the latest news, consider filling a committee position, encourage Apprentices to join the Association and please pay your renewal fees as soon as you receive your notice. If you are able, donations to the memorial fund will always be appreciated.

Regards to all

Frank

Frank Poole LTCOL(R) RAE(tn), President