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THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INC.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (ACT Incorporation No A04404)
PO BOX 4091, KOGARAH BAY, NSW 2217, <http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>
Patron: Brigadier Andrew Freeman

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Certificates of Appreciation

Jim Hislop and Charlie Myhill



Association Patron, BRIG Andrew Freeman, 40th Intake Elec Fitter, recently presented very well-deserved Association Certificates of Appreciation to Jim Hislop (at left) and Charlie Myhill, both 9th Intake Fitters & Turners, for the valuable service they have provided over many years in support of the Association, especially the Army Apprentices Memorial in Bandiana, Victoria.

The Certificates read:

To Jim Hislop, in recognition of the valuable support you have given the Association over many years as a member of the Memorial Sub-committee, specifically in managing maintenance and security of the Memorial and of installation of pavers and plaques.

To Charlie Myhill, in recognition of the valuable support you have given the Association's Memorial Sub-committee over many years, specifically in assisting with managing maintenance and security and with installation of pavers and plaques.

Well done gents and may we see you continue to do your good work for some time to come.

From the President

By Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech, President AAAA
president@austarmyapprentice.org

To all who gave donations to our Association during the Reunion and membership registration process, a sincere thank you from the Committee. The Association needs funds to pay its way with the cost of operation and to carry out the work as directed by our Constitution, such as maintaining our memorials.

To this end, as noted during our recent dedication of a plaque for Mick Mace at Balcombe, the condition of the Balcombe Gates and their brick walls are showing signs of deterioration and will require attention. This is now a Committee project, with the responsible member making contact with the Mornington Peninsular Shire Council to start the conversation as to what can be done. This is just one example of the work that is on-going by the current Committee; together we make a good team.

Take what you can from this Newsletter, share it with others, keep in touch, and take care.

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Rifle Company Butterworth update

By Don Gray, 22nd Radio Mechanic

Thank you to those who responded in regard to my request seeking other ex-Apprentices who served with an Australian Rifle Company in Butterworth (RCB). And my thanks also to Jeff Heron for his help in placing the request in our Newsletter.

I was particularly interested to hear from or of those who were posted to Butterworth between 1970 and 1989. My principal interest has been in regard to those who were sent in the role of Radio Mechanic or Armourer, as these were the two RAEME vacancies available for my deployment in 1973/74 from the full complement of 130 soldiers assigned to A Company Group, 3 RAR.

Australian Rifle Companies were deployed during this period with the Malaysian government believing it had a serious problem with Communist Terrorists (CTs) and engaging its military to seek out and destroy the CTs. A peace deal was signed in December 1989, bringing the armed conflict to an end. With RAAF assets and personnel stationed at Butterworth until their official withdrawal in 1988, it was perhaps not unreasonable for the Australian government to increase airfield security in Butterworth by deploying infantry detachments on a rotational basis. Records suggest that the RCB deployments commenced in 1970 with monthly rotations from our Singapore based battalion. In 1973, this changed to three-monthly deployments directly from Australia with the first of these by 8RAR between August and November 1973.

RCB service during the period 1970 to 1989, subject to a minimum period of 30 days, has been recognised for the award of the Australian Service Medal (ASM) with SE Asia clasp.

From the information supplied to me, I can now advise that I have the names of 15 ex-Apprentices who served in Butterworth during the period 1970 to 1989. Of these, one person noted that he went in the role of a rifleman because the infantry needed to make up numbers. This was a big surprise to me and not a role I had expected! Only one other of the 15 has identified that he went in one of the two RAEME roles I was expecting to hear and that was as the Armourer.

Many of the names provided have come indirectly to me rather than from those individuals, so I am unable to confirm how many, if any, of these actually served as tradesmen or as infantry or in any other role. Quite a few mentioned were not RAEME but RAE, which was

also curious to me based on my experience. Other trades included Carpenters & Joiners (the Chippies) and Vehicle Mechanics.

Again, my thanks to those who responded and, if anyone has news of yet more of us who were posted to Butterworth or can provide further and better particulars, I would be most pleased to hear from you.

For those interested, there are a number of Web sites referencing the RCB – here are a few:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rifle_Company_Butterworth

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/885421494804072/>

Both <https://rarnational.org.au> and <http://rarasa.org.au> contain a number of references to the RCB. (Ed)

Internet quickies

AAAA Facebook pages

Just a quick note to remind/advise readers that there are four Facebook pages connected with our Association. These are:

[Australian Army Apprentices Association \[official\]](#)
[Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth](#)
[Army Apprentice Nomads](#)
[Appy Motorcyclists](#)

Rex Clark

It has been brought to our attention that one of the 6th Intake Carpenters and Joiners, Rex Clark had a colourful past that is mentioned in at least [Wikipedia](#) and the [Ballarat Courier](#). It's not appropriate to include details in this Newsletter, but readers might like to do their own research.

Membership matters

From Craig Malcolm, 31st ET, Membership Secretary,
membership@austarmyapprentice.org

The latest membership numbers as at 24 July 2018 are: Ordinary Members – 390; Retired Members – 457; Life Members – 3; Associates – 12; Total – 862. This is an increase of 25 members since the last newsletter and an increase of 234 compared to this time last year.

A good sign for the Association is that many of the newer members are from the later intakes; eg: we now have 29 Members from the 40th Intake – see the chart on page 8.



The next renewal date is 1 Sep 2018 and renewals have been sent out on 1 August, so if your membership is due you will have received a Renewal Notice from me in the mail.

I would also like to remind everyone of the different classes of membership to the Association as there appears to be some confusion between an Ordinary and a Retired member. According to our constitution, the definition of each type of membership is as follows:

Ordinary Member: Any person who enlisted into the Australian Army, with the rank of Apprentice and was allocated a class intake number and attended the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe or Bonegilla or the Army College of TAFE at Bonegilla.

Retired Member: Any person satisfying the above requirement for member who is now no longer working full time or is drawing a DVA, Age or TPI pension. Special cases shall be considered by the Office-bearers of the Association.

Please take this into account when renewing your membership.

Event reports

70th Reunion & Anzac Day March Canberra 24-27 April 2018 – Photographic record



By now, those who ordered the Reunion photographic record should have received their USB flash cards.



What a wonderful record it is: over 1100 photos and 15 minutes of video. Many thanks to Michelle Thompson, official “photographer” and others who provided their input. Michelle is the wife of our Heritage Officer, Peter Thompson, 21st VM.

Additional copies of the cards are now available for purchase via the Merchandise Officer - refer to page 6.

Mace Oval Commemoration 15 June 2018

By Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mech

On a typically cold, wet and very windy Balcombe mid-winter morning, around 20 apprentices, some Vietnam Veterans, members from the RAE Association, representatives from the 22nd Engineer Regiment, and staff and students from Balcombe Grammar School gathered with the three daughters of WO2 Raymond “Mick” Mace, MM, BEM to witness the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Mick’s work by the creating of what we all called “Mace Oval”. Mick’s military career has previously been recognised through his awards: Military Medal (WW2 Borneo) and BEM (devotion to duty, mainly through his contribution whilst posted to the Army Apprentices School).





Local Shire Councillor, Sam Hearn gave us a brief background and was then assisted by Helen Mace and her sisters Lorraine and Ann to unveil the memorial plaque.



It is very important to recognise the support of the Mornington Peninsular Shire as their support is essential for our heritage to survive.

Balcombe Grammar School Year 12 Captains, Amy Skene and Darcy Wrench spoke in recognising the historical significance of this playing field. After all, it is in their care, and knowing its heritage will ensure our memories will last long after we have departed.

LTCOL Sharon Coates, Commanding Officer 22nd Engineer Regiment, representing HOC RAE BRIG David Wainwright, supported by WO1 Justin Jones, RSM, spoke briefly in support of Mick's heritage.

Many thanks must go to our Heritage Officer, Peter Thompson, 21st Intake VM who managed to meet the expectations of everyone concerned with this event.

After braving a windy, wet outdoor speech or two, we retired to the Grammar School for a warm cup of tea and a bikkie grovel.



Barry (left) with ex-Secretary Neil Bennett, 13th Intake VM at Balcombe Grammar School

ACT Region Lunch 20 Jun 2018
ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

On a beautifully calm, balmy, mid-winter's Canberra day (13 degrees IS balmy for Canberra at this time of the year!), 15 Apprentices and three partners enjoyed a good value buffet lunch at the Woden Southern Cross Club.

This was the second of two lunches to make use of the refund vouchers from the Club after it was cancelled as the venue for the 70th Anniversary Reunion held in Canberra over the Anzac Day period.

Intakes from the 2nd (Herb Taylor) to the 25th (Doc Chinner and Graeme Scott) were represented.

Hope to see you at the next one.

Upcoming events

ACT Region Lunch, Wednesday
19 September 2018, 1200 hrs
ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

The next Canberra lunch will be on Wed 19 Sep at the Limestone Café at the Ainslie Football Club at 1200. Hope to see you there.

Please let me know if you are attending.

Sydney lunch, Saturday 22 September 2018
Contact: Richard Pike, 21st VM, Treasurer
treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org

Location: Kirribilli Club Lavender Bay Sydney



AAAA AGM, Saturday 13 October 2018, Kirribilli

The next AGM of the Association will be held at the Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbourview Cres, Lavender Bay, Sydney, NSW 2060. The Agenda will be on the Website prior to the meeting at www.austarmyapprentice.org

101 Fd Wksp Return to Sydney Reunion, Saturday 20 October 2018

Contact, Gary Hodges, garyhodges101@gmail.com
0415 764069

All 101ers, with partners and friends from Puckapunyal, Ingleburn, Vietnam and Darwin are invited to a reunion dinner.

Date: 20 October 2018 **Time:** 1800 to 2300

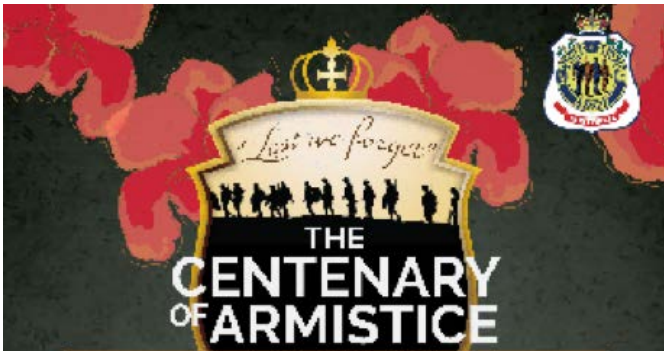
Venue: Liverpool Catholic Club, 485 Hoxton Park Rd, Prestons, NSW 2170

Accommodation: Adjoining the Club is the Mercure Liverpool Hotel. A 12% discount is available - quote 101 Workshop when booking.

Cost: \$60 per person

Payment: ANZ 014316- 303477818

Centenary of Armistice, RSL Tasmania



Remembrance Concert: Albert Hall, Launceston, Saturday, 3 November 2018: matinee at 1.30 pm and evening at 7.30 pm. **Tickets:** \$50 per person, \$40 concession, available from www.cvent.com.au.

Northern Midlands Sub Branch Commemoration Dinner and US Marines 243rd Birthday: Albert Hall, Launceston, Saturday 10th November 2018, 6.00 for 6.30 pm. **Tickets:** phone the Princess Theatre on 6331 0052 or <https://theatrenorth.com.au>

Northern Midlands Sub Branch Armistice Day service: Longford Village Green, Sunday 11 November 2018, to be broadcast nationally and to Pacific and Indian Ocean islands. The service will be followed by a free BBQ and entertainment.

All Apprentices get-together, Albany WA, 8-11 November 2018

Contact: Bob Coventry, 22nd Radio Mech
bobcov51@gmail.com

Open to all ex-Apprentices, partners and affiliates - not just those living in WA. Activities include:

Dinner: Albany RSL, Thursday 8 November

Free time: to tour the ANZAC Interpretive Centre and Friday night 9 November for Class/Trade get-togethers

Camp-fire Dinner: Saturday 10 November (on one of our members' private property)

Remembrance Day Ceremony: Sunday 11 November

Keep any eye on the Events sections of the [Army Apprentice Nomads](#) or [Army Apprentices are the Cream of Australian Youth](#) Facebook pages.

Atherton Tablelands RSL building opening By Peter (Doc) Doherty, 22nd Intake Elec Fitter, to the AAAA via the Membership Secretary

"I live on the Tablelands and our local RSL Sub-branch is building a long-awaited building/club in Atherton. The tablelands area was a pivotal training and set-off area for most troops who served in the Pacific. Our RSL will be providing plaques to honour individuals, families and units, so we can be a part of history and honour those who served and went before us.

The old Atherton RSL was deemed to be too small and was sold some years ago It is now a music centre, known as the ORB (Old RSL Building).

There is now a strong group determined to rejuvenate the local military history and to support veterans and locals through our new RSL building. The building opening is aimed at 11 November 2018 and the plaques will have pride of place in the entrance to the new building. Plaques range in price from \$100-\$1000 and will assist greatly in the building costs. I hope you can assist by informing members and pledging a plaque for the Association. Cheers, Doc"

37th Intake reunion 12 January 2019

Visit the 37th Class Army Apprentices (Australia) Facebook page for details.

29th Intake 45th reunion, Australia Day 2019 Contact: Ian Fawkner, 29th ET.

Will be held at Benalla (where it all began).



24th Intake 50th reunion 15–17 February 2019, Balcombe/Frankston area

Contacts: John (JC) Goodchap, 24th VM, john_goodchap@yahoo.com or Phil Gibbs, 24th VM, pergware4@bigpond.com

2020 AAAA Reunion, Maroochydore

Early preparations are underway for the next Reunion of the AAAA, to be held in Maroochydore, QLD in the spring of 2020. Watch this space and the Association Website for more details.

2023 AAAA 75th Reunion, Albury

The next major milestone for Apprentices will be the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of the Army Apprenticeships, falling in 2023.

Association merchandise

Contact Phil Gibbs, 24th VM, Merchandise Officer merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org

The Association's stocks of merchandise were fully depleted at the 70th Reunion. We are restocking and now have adequate levels of all items except for the regular AAS-badged cap.

New items include:

- 70th Reunion baseball cap \$15.00 +\$7.50 P&H
- 70th Reunion photographic record (USB flash card) see p3 \$20.00 +\$7.50 P&H
- 70th Reunion stubby coolers \$10,00 +\$1.00 P&H.

Order form and contact details are on the Association Website <http://austarmyapprentice.org/merchandise/>

Association insurance

The Association President and Secretary have conducted a review of the Association's insurances with a view to ensuring we are insured appropriately for public and products liability, and Association and officials and volunteer workers.

If you are organising an event or have any enquiries, please address the Association Secretary in writing (secretary@austarmyapprentice.org) so that you are covered to the extent of the current insurance policy.

The Association now has the following insurances:

a) PUBLIC & PRODUCTS LIABILITY

Note: This policy does not cover you as organisers of fetes, parades, marches or other

special events where large concentrations of people are expected. All such activities should be referred to our Insurer for individual activity cover which will attract additional cost.

b) ASSOCIATIONS & OFFICIALS LIABILITY

c) PERSONAL ACCIDENT (COMMITTEE MEMBERS/VOLUNTEER WORKERS)

The Committee has also arranged an Event Notification Form to assist Members to inform the Association of proposed events. The form should be available on the Website shortly.

Vale notices summary

From Kevin Noon, 14.5th Musician, Welfare Officer welfare@austarmyapprentice.org

The Welfare Officer's role includes advising of any passing of Apprentices, so the Association and its members may be aware, and the information can be recorded.

If you are aware of any of our colleagues who are ill or about to undergo surgery, please let me know so I can post that information on both association Facebook sites.

And a reminder to those who do notify either myself or the Webmaster regarding an Apprentice that has passed away, if at all possible, please include the NOK's details and their address.

Vale notices are posted on the Association Website (<http://austarmyapprentice.org/vale/>) and other social media sites.

Wally Rotow (18th Intake Radio Mech) continues to investigate through various media sources around Australia, finding those names of Apprentices who he's uncovered that have not been recorded as passing away before, but with his good work these names have now been passed onto our Webmaster for the Vale link.

Intake & trade	Name	Passed away
27 th ET	Peter Wayne Ferris	30 Oct 99
16 th Clerk	John Joseph Quigley	22 Nov 14
35 th C&J	Soren Ehlers	16 May 18
28 th ET	Kurt Andersen	19 Jun 18
30 th Fitter Maint	Peter John Sherry	?
34 th ET	Brian Ian Tucker	19 May 18
9 th F&T	Robert Ian Hamilton	2 Jul 18
13 th VM	Allan Lyle Pilkington	22 Jul 18



SPAASSM competition

May 2018 competition

Congratulations Geoff Grey, 36th Musician for correctly identifying Steve Hladio, OAM, 27th Musician in the Anzac Day March photo from the recent 70th Reunion, 3rd from the right, apparently looking directly at the camera below. And well done to Willie Nelson, 36th VM, who came a very close second.



August competition

Here's another, this time from the SPAASSM collection. What's the equipment being inspected in this image (using the Army Navy/Portable Radio Communications nomenclature, either model will do). First correct answer to me at news@austarmyapprentice.org receives a copy of the SPAASSM DVD.



Of course, Committee members may not enter.

Newsletter submissions

Submissions for the Newsletter are always welcome. Please send them to news@austarmyapprentice.org. Submissions for November close on 16 October 2018.

AAAA Committee

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/about/committee/>

The vacancies still await volunteers, particularly motivated Regional Representatives. We are seeking expressions of interest for any of these roles for the 12

months following the AGM in October 2018. So how about it? While mentioning the upcoming AGM, the positions shown in blue and underlined are due for re-election at that time. If you are interested in any of the roles, please find the nomination form on the Website and send in your nomination.

Management Sub-committee:

Office Bearers:

President - Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech
Vice President - Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter
Secretary - Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T
Treasurer - Richard Pike, 21st VM

Plus:

Membership Secretary - Craig Malcolm, 31st ET
Public Officer - Ray Wilson, 15th Plumber
Welfare Officer, Memorial Sub-committee Member - Kevin Noon, 14.5th Musician

Events Manager - **Vacant**
Memorial Sub-committee Chair - **Vacant**

Other Committee Members:

Heritage Officer, Memorial Sub-committee Secretary - Peter Thompson, 21st VM
Webmaster - Ian Morris, 12th Radio Mech - **Life Member**
Member - Bob Clarke, 22nd VM
Member, Social Media Administrator - Joanne Cornelius, 43rd VM
Member, Merchandise Officer - Phillip Gibbs, 24th VM
Member, Newsletter Editor - Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech - **Life Member**
Member - **Vacant**
Member - Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Radio Mech

Appointees:

Honorary Trustee, Memorial Sub-committee Member - Jim Hislop, 9th F&T
Chaplain, Memorial Sub-committee Member - Rev Alan Kelb, OAM, 25th F&T
Auditor - **Vacant**
Legal Adviser - **Vacant**

Regional Representatives:

NT - Kevin Forster, 28th VM
NQld - David Young, 30th Fitter Maint
SQLd - Brian Daley, 14th VM - **Life Member, Memorial Sub-committee Member**
NSW - Richard Pike, 21st VM, **Treasurer**
ACT - Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech - **Life Member, Member, Newsletter Editor**
N Vic - **Vacant**
Central Vic - Mark Ryan, 33rd Motor Mech
Southern Vic - Matt Bouma, 30th C&J
SE Vic - Neil Bennett, 13th VM
Vic Metro - Lucas McGann, 35th Elec Fitter
SA - David Miller, 22nd Elec Fitter
Tas - Gary Byard, RFD, 21st VM
WA - Bob Coventry, 22nd Radio Mech



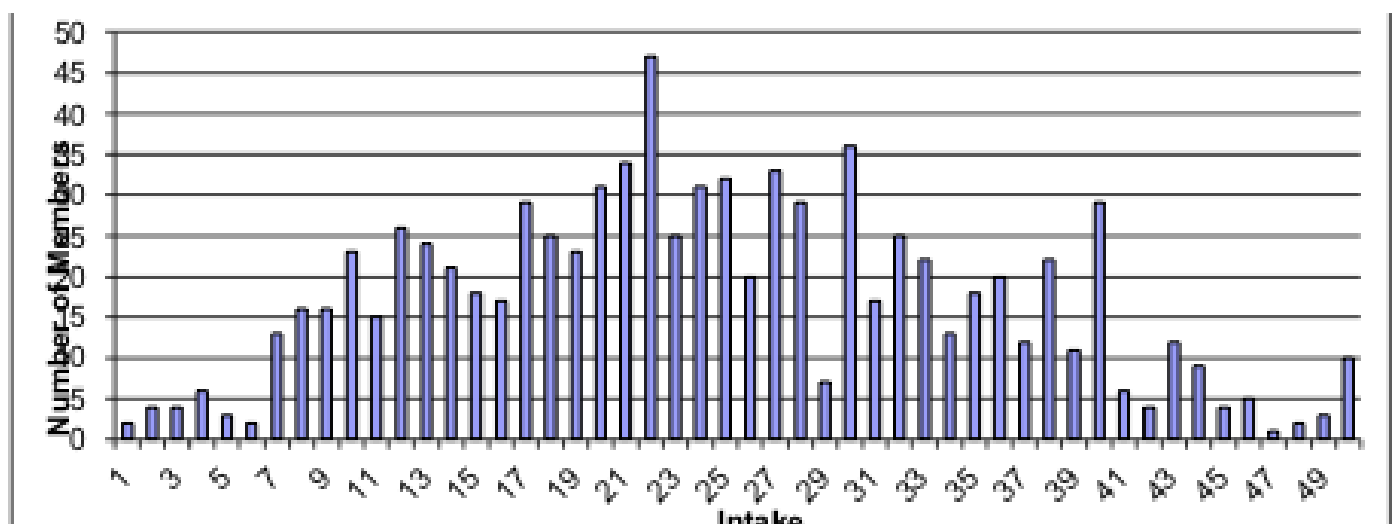
7th Intake 40th Anniversary, 12 December 1992

From Harry Cole, 7th VM

A blast from the past, at the Army Apprentices School of TAFE at Bonegilla in 1992, when we (along with all other Intakes) planted trees with bronze plaques depicting the Intakes, years, etc. We all looked a bit grey then but remember that was 26 years ago and we are all in our 80's now! The trees and plaques are still there, but access to Latchford Barracks is very limited. Jim Hislop, 9th F&T, Association Trustee does check up on them whenever he can.



(L-R) Tom Ikin, Trevor Barker, Peter (Foxy) Hawkridge, Tony Spruzen, Tom Prosser, Harry Cole, Bernie Sullivan, Arthur Newman, Stan Whitwell, Baden Jeffrey



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Information, views and opinions expressed in “The Apprentice About” originate from many different sources and contributors throughout our membership. Please note that content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of the AAAA.