



Skills creation - the wealth of a Nation



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: Major General Andrew Mathewson, AM

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From the President

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

For our coming year, the work agenda for the current Committee is filling fast. This Association will be leading the Anzac Day March in Canberra in 2018, complemented by the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial at 5.00 pm on the next day, which will honour one of our own KIA. Our next all intakes reunion will be incorporated around this day, Wednesday 25th April 2018, so put it in your diary today. As information is finalised, it will be posted in future Newsletters, the Web page, and social media.

Welcome to Peter Thompson, 21st VM, who has accepted the Heritage Officer's role to fill the vacancy left from Harry Cole stepping down.

This Association is well managed by your Committee and is financially sound. Let's stay in step, encourage and support each other, and become better friends.

Australia Day Awards 2017

Kevin Bailey, AM, 32nd ET

Kevin has been awarded Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for "significant service to Australia-Timor Leste relations, to philanthropic organisations, to the financial planning sector, and to the community." Kevin's extensive service includes:

Honorary Consul General of Timor-Leste in Victoria, 2002-2013; Board Member, Timor-Leste Sovereign Wealth Fund, since 2007; Director, G7 Foundation, Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance, 2014-2016; Patron, Love, Life and Health, Timor-Leste, current; Co-Founder, Xanana Vocational Education Trust, 2003 and Director, 2003 to approx. 2008; Past Vice-Chairman, Australian East Timor Association, 2004-2010 and Member, since 1991; and assisted with foundation and construction of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Canberra, 2004-2010.

Kevin has held numerous Director, Member, Leader, Head, Ambassador, Chairman positions with National community, advisory committees, philanthropic, church and youth organisations over the period 1983 to 2016.

Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Radio Mech

Past President AAAA, 2013-2015 and current Committee Member, Barry was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to the community, particularly through the support for charitable organisations". Barry has served on several charitable organisation boards for decades, including the Freemasonry Victoria Board of Benevolence from 2000 - 2011, and he has been Director of the Freemasons Foundation since 2014. Barry's service includes: Freemasons Victoria: Grand Steward, 2015-2016; Director, Freemasons Foundation Victoria, since 2014; Chairman, Marketing and Communications Committee, since 2014; Deputy-President (2 years) and (contd p2)

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(Contd from p1) Member, Board of Benevolence, 1999-2011; Worshipful Master, Mozart Lodge, 1987; Lodge of Commerce 2005; appointments include Grand Standard Bearer, 1989; Past Junior Grand Deacon, 1990; Past Grand Inspector of Workings, 1997; Past Junior Grand Warden, 2007; Past Senior Grand Warden, 2012; District Coordinator, Central District, 2004-2008; Executive Producer and Director, live TV and internet streaming of Grand Lodge events, since 2012; Concept Creator, 'Inside Freemasonry' (weekly tv program on C31); Webmaster, since 1995; Member, Victorian Naval and Military Lodge, since 1981. Chairman, War Veterans Group, Melbourne Cricket Club, 2009-2011; Member, since 2006. Volunteer, Fundraiser and Bash Participant (Car 321), Variety, "for many years". He has also held numerous President, Assistant Treasurer, Member positions with Rotary and the RSL. He is a Bail Justice and JP, and is or has been a Company Director, Broadcast Engineer, outside Broadcast Manager, Technical Director, and TV Production Mentor, with credits including Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, and World Cup Soccer.

Apprentices Memorial report

By Frank Poole, 10th Architectural Draughtsman, Chair Memorial Sub-committee and Life Member
memorial@austarmyapprentice.org

This is a very short report – I'm just out of hospital. The Intake Pavement from the rose garden to the Memorial is underway with design and construction by RAE trade training students (Apprentices). The Association pays all costs. Thanks for donations received to date, but further would be appreciated to ensure we can afford quality explanatory plaques. A full report will be in the 7th March Committee meeting minutes.

Once an Appy

Author - Steve Muir, 25th F&T

*They came from near and far, ... back then
 this bunch of boys, who would be men,
 From either side of the Great Divide,
 from Tassie south, ... to Torres tides
 Their Dads had told them ... "Get a trade!"
 "Cause life is hard, ... but you'll be made."
 So off to Balcombe then did wend
 these boys to soldiers, ... nine years to spend
 That first as Sprogs, the first of three
 For us ... 'twas Nineteen Seventy,
 Cold, ... and hard, ... with much to learn,*

*the respect of one's peers, ... not easily earned
 Much marching here, and doubling there,
 In Poof Suits, or Ovaries, with Barber Tom's hair
 Messing, ... Parading, ... then up Trades Hill
 From six in the morning, ... we copped our fill
 Intermediates fast, ... then Seniors ... at last!
 When looking back now, how time it flew past
 The fun that we had while learning our Trades
 The living we did, ... we did it in spades!
 Those three years at Balcombe, were started out
 'others'
 From boys into men, ... we became life-long Brothers.
 Regrets for done wrong, ... I doubt there'd be any
 For we were young lads, ... and in for our penny
 We've lived many lives, and, ... just like those fathers
 Have wives, many children ... but, given our
 'd'rathers'
 We'd live it again, ... and again be that bunch
 Of boys who'd be men, ... I have but a hunch!*

Association merchandise

Contact Richard Pike, 21st VM, Merchandise Officer
merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org

The Association has the following items for sale. Order form and contact details are on the Association Website: <http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>

- Polo shirts (AAS badge, M, L, XL) \$35.00 +\$9.50 P&H
- Association tie \$25.00 +\$7.50 P&H
- Lapel badge \$10.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- Car sticker \$5.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- Plaque \$45.00+\$10.00 P&H
- Baseball cap \$12.50 +\$7.50 P&H
- Key-ring (old Assn badge) \$5.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- Key-ring (new Assn badge - ask for your number) \$20.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- AAS flag \$175.00 +\$9.50 P&H
- DVDs:
 - 60th Anniversary (2008) \$10.00 +\$7.50 P&H
 - Balcombe Commemoration (2013) \$15.00 +\$7.50 P&H
 - SPAASSM Collection \$25.00 +\$7.50 P&H

SPAASSM

By Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech, Editor,
moderator@austarmyapprentice.org

In late 2006, Peter Thornton (35th ET) discovered a large quantity of AAS material at the Army Museum, Bandiana, Vic, including photographs, negatives, slides, video tapes, movie films, journals, graduation booklets, standing orders, handbooks and histories. They had been rescued by Jim Hislop (9th F&T) at the closing of the School and given to the Museum.



In early 2007, Project SPAASSM, (Special Project for Army Apprentice School Special Material) was established and, over the next three years, the Project created the “AAAA Inc Historical Collection”, in which the items were surveyed, digitised, catalogued and put into archival standard storage. For more information, visit the [Website](#). A DVD containing copies of the material is also available for sale from the Association – see Association Merchandise (p2).

Feb 2017 SPAASSM competition

From time to time, this Newsletter features selected SPAASSM materials in the form of a competition. Visitors to the AAAA Website will recognise this photo from the set of four scrolling images on the home page. But who is the featured Apprentice?



The first person who emails me with the correct answer gets a copy of the SPAASSM DVD. Committee members (and the lady herself) may not enter.

Membership matters

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

Current membership status:

Financial members (as at 18th January 2017):

• Ordinary Members	275
• Retired Members	312
• Life Members	3
• Associates	8
• Total	598

This is an increase of 8 members since last Newsletter. The next round of membership renewals is due on 1st March. If your membership is due, keep an eye out for a renewal letter in the mail. If you have changed address since your last renewal, please let me know at membership@austarmyapprentice.org or 0438 808 233.

Event reports

32nd Intake 40th Reunion

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

Forty years after the 32nd Intake of Apprentices first

set foot at Balcombe to be greeted by RSM Norm Goldspink, 93 appies with 36 wives/partners ventured back to the Mornington Peninsula for the largest single Intake Apprentice reunion held so far.

The reunion had appies traveling from all over Australia and overseas, including Tokyo, Dubai and Columbia. The event was held over the weekend of 13th – 15th January 2017 and was organised by Gregg Amies, Kevin Bailey and Kym Olsen with a full program of activities to cater for everyone.

Friday night had the welcoming drinks where we caught up with friends and colleagues that we hadn't seen for many years (38 years for some), with many tales being told, both tall and true.

Saturday was off to a slow start for some, but saw an organised tour to Mornington, Balcombe, Mt Martha and Arthurs Seat; a winery tour; or a game of golf. For the visit to Balcombe, we were provided with a map overlay with the camp layout on top of the current street layout so we could see where we lived as we took the opportunity to wander around the very different looking streets.



The obligatory 32nd Crab was unveiled at the Gates with many photos taken.

Saturday evening saw the culmination of events with a formal dinner with all 129 participants sitting down at the Royal Hotel in Mornington for a fantastic meal accompanied by an attachment from the Australian Army Band led by Staff Sergeant Stuart Colhoun (37th Intake).

After another slow start, Sunday morning featured a well-attended brunch where most of us said farewell, committing to stay in touch and not wait another 40 years before we did it again.

A group photo is over the page.



32nd Intake 40th Reunion group

Upcoming events

Canberra Region Lunch

The next ACT Region quarterly lunch will be held at the Golden King Restaurant, Phillip on Wednesday 29th March, 1200 for 1230. All Service Apprentices, Australian and overseas, and partners are welcome. Email frank.poole@grapevine.com.au for attendance or further information.

1st Bn Battle Gp Reunion WNGO

Contact: Treasurer, Ray Curtis rosandray4@bigpond.com

F.S.B. Coral Vietnam Reunion and Memorial Service - the 49th Anniversary Reunion 2017, Hobart Tasmania

Dates: Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th May 2017

Venue: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart

Meet and Greet

Tuesday 16th May 2017, Grand Chancellor Hotel, 1645hrs

Memorial Service & Dinner

Wednesday 17th May 2017, gather at 1630hrs in the Ballroom at the Grand Chancellor. All to be seated by 1700hrs.

There will not be a march this year due to the uncertainty of the weather in Hobart at that time of the year. The ceremony will follow a similar format to previous years only indoors.

Music will be provided by the Australian Army Band Tasmania.

Following the ceremony and during the pre-dinner drinks we intend to hold the AGM.

12th Class 60 years since entering Balcombe Reunion, 28th April-1st May 2017 Townsville Contact: Mal Edmiston m.edmiston@bigpond.com

We are going ahead with the Reunion although we still have very low numbers. We have a good program so visitors will be entertained and there is plenty more to see if they choose to stop on.

SE Qld AAS reunion, Sat 3rd Jun 2017

Contact Brian Daley - 14th VM bjdaley14@gmail.com

Where & when: Bulimba Bowls Club, Quinn St Balmoral; 1100-1600; dress, neat casual

Open to Apprentices and families, ex-staff members and others who were associated with Apprentices and wish to renew old friendships.

Lunch is a free sausage sizzle, but feel free to bring your own - a BBQ is available. Drinks may be purchased at the bar.

If you know of any Apprentices who may not be aware of this reunion, please pass this on.

RAEME 75th Anniversary 2017

The 75th Anniversary will include Parading of the Prince Phillip Banner at the Brisbane Anzac Day March, followed by a luncheon for all past and current members of RAEME at the Port Office Hotel. Keep an eye on the RAEME Association Website at:





<http://www.raeme.org.au> and RAEME Qld site at:
<http://www.qld.raeme.org.au>.

Polo shirts, caps and bundles are available – just visit
<http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop/clothing>.

Apprentices Reunion and Anzac Day March 25th April 2018

Otto Aberle, 21st VM, Events Manager
events@austarmyapprentice.org.au

The Reunion to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Army Apprentices School will be held in Canberra over the period Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th April 2018.



The two major highlights of the Reunion are the Anzac Day March in Canberra where our Association has been invited to lead the National March. This is indeed a huge honour and we will be looking for a substantial contingent to make us all proud. The second highlight is the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on 26th April 2018, where an Army Apprentice will be honoured.

The broad outline concept, at this stage, for the Reunion is as follows:

Date/Time	Activity	Location/Remarks
Tue 24 Apr 18 Afternoon/early evening	Meet & Greet & BBQ dinner	Location TBD
Wed 25 Apr 18 Very early morning	Dawn Service	AWM
0700 - 0800	Gunfire Breakfast	Location TBD
0900 - 1300	National Anzac Day Service & March	AWM
Afternoon/evening	Free	
Thur 26 Apr 18 0900 - 1200	Bus tours of points of interest	Choose one from: * Science & Engineering * Politics * Arts
1200 - 1300	Lunch at own cost	National Arboretum - enjoy stunning views of Canberra
1400 - 1645	Tour AWM	AWM

Date/Time	Activity	Location/Remarks
1655	Last Post Ceremony	AWM - an Army Apprentice to be honoured
1930 - late	Reunion Dinner	Location TBD
Fri 27 Apr 18 Morning	Dispersal	Own arrangements

Venues for several activities are still being finalised. We are currently endeavouring to obtain a group/corporate booking at the Narrabundah Abode apartments, which has accommodation for about 250 people in 2, 3 or 4 person apartments, a large car park and an adjoining large room that would be suitable for the Meet & Greet function, etc. We are planning on using buses to/from the AWM on Anzac Day itself.

Costs have not yet been finalised.

Place these dates in your diary now, as it is sure to be a memorable event not to be missed.

Invictus Games 2018

The Invictus Games will be held in Sydney over the period 18th-29th October 2018. The Association has volunteered to participate. Visit the Website www.invictusgames2018.org. More information will be provided in future editions of this Newsletter.

Website reviews

Australia and the Vietnam War

<http://vietnam-war.commemoration.gov.au>
Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
moderator@austarmyapprentice.org

February marks the 50th Anniversary of *Operation Bribie*, one of Australia's worst days in Vietnam. After a communist force attacked the village of Lang Phuoc Hai early on the 17th February 1967, 6 RAR and the APCs from A Sqn, 3 Cav Regt were to cut off the enemy's withdrawal routes, as part of a plan to destroy the enemy force. A Coy ran into trouble before the other three companies arrived. The enemy position was much stronger than expected and the Australians had to break contact. The M113 APCs of 3 Cav Regt helped to save the day. By 7.30 that evening, eight Australians had been killed and another 27 wounded. This Website is an excellent resource for examining Australia's involvement in Vietnam from the introduction of 30 military advisers in 1962,



followed by 1 RAR in 1965 and then the task force in 1966, through to the cessation of combat operations in 1972, and finally the RAAF carrying out evacuations and assisting refugees in 1975 just before South Vietnam's surrender.

THE WEBSITE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION

<http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>

The AAAA Website continues to provide a wealth of information about the Association, its history and Apprentices in general. The [Home](#) page includes details of the Army Apprentice Scheme and "What the badge means". The [Home](#) page also has links to:

- [About](#) features the Association's Objectives, Committee and Constitution, the Apprentice Prayer, and "All About Apprentices", where you can find articles on AAS Facts and Figures, Staffing, Appointments and Awards, Graduation Parades, and High Achievers.
- [AAS Memorial](#) – everything about the Memorial.
- Under "Site Links" at the bottom of the [Home](#) page is an [Archives](#) link. Here you will find a range of historical articles, including the Official Opening of Latchford Barracks, the 60th Anniversary Reunion (2008), the Canberra Reunion (2011), the Albury Reunion (2015), Project SPAASSM, and a Potted History of the AAAA.

Traverse from Wilkes to Vostok, Antarctica - Desmond "Pancho" Evans, 1st Intake VM

By Peter Thompson, 21st VM, Heritage Officer
heritage@austarmyapprentice.org

Army Apprentices generally have ventured and achieved in many areas of the globe and their achievement in areas of conflict, rightly so, get good mention and coverage. One area where they have participated with distinction is the Great Southern Continent of Antarctica.

Many Apprentices of various intakes have played their part in support of the Australian Antarctic Division, be it on resupply voyages as part of the DUKW/LARC teams or with employment with the Division completing 15 month contracts with 12 month winters down south.

One of the outstanding individuals is Desmond "Pancho" Evans, a 1st Intake VM. Pancho, along with his other diesel (dieso) mechanic mate Neville "Gringo" Collins, took part in the Vostok Traverse, the

most ambitious over ice journey then attempted by Australian Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) in September 1962.

They were responsible for keeping two D4 Caterpillar dozers (towing a train of sledges and caravans) and two vintage 1944 Weasel over-snow vehicles operational in temperatures that, at one point, fell to -63°C.

The expedition, led by New Zealander Robert Thomson including Don Walker (geophysicist), Alistair Battye (glaciologist) and American Danny Foster (weather observer), left Wilkes Station (Casey Station of today) on 17th September 1962 and returned some 4 months later, January 1963.

The main purpose of the traverse was to take ice core samples and fire seismic charges to plot the thickness of the ice sheet on the Polar Cap. The distance inland was limited by fuel supplies and, with the help of the Americans with air drops of Aviation Turbo Kerosene (ATK) by their Globemaster C124 aircraft and Wilkes Station support, they ventured some 1300 km inland to the Russian Research Station, Vostok located at inland Princess Elizabeth Land.

Vostok is known as the coldest place on earth, having recorded a temperature of -89.6C on 21st July 1983 by an automatic recording system.

There would be very few people on this earth who have visited this isolated dot on the map of the 5th largest continent twice the size of Australia; an Australian Army Apprentice is one them.

To get to Vostok, the group had to climb the polar ice cap some 3488 m, adding oxygen deprivation for man and machine as well as the challenges of isolation and paralysing cold.

The weasels ran on petrol and the Cat D4 run on ATK which can handle the cold without waxing out and turning to jelly as is the case with distillate.

The cooling systems on both the weasels and Cats were filled also with ATK because of its antifreeze capabilities which exceed -60°C.

Pancho and Neville keep the machines going in temperatures that were extreme to say the least and the most serious breakdown was at the 800 km mark, just short of where the Americans were to do an air drop of fuel.

One of the D4s suffered a sheared oil pump drive, (probably on start up trying to pump oil with the consistency of treacle) and, on a day where the day-



time temperature didn't rise over -45°C and dropped to -58°C at night, it would have been a challenge to effect repairs.

Evans and Collins dug a pit under the D4 dozer and worked on it until their fingers had lost feeling, at which stage they would adjourn to the caravan and warm back up again. They did an improvised repair by cutting down the shaft of a screwdriver to act as the oil pump drive pin and continued on for the next 500 km to Vostok.

The station was unoccupied but the Russians had given them permission to use it. The benefit to the Russians is that they had access to the scientific data recorded on the traverse to link up with their own data, particularly the geomagnetic readings.

The traverse group reached Vostok on 18th November 1962, dug their way into the base through the accumulated ice and snow, got the Russian generators going (a feat in itself) and had a well-earned rest and feed before the return to Wilkes Station, some 1300 km away.

This style of traverse was the forerunner of many later traverses which, in this more modern time, use Cat D7H high drive dozers and Cat Challenger 65s to tow trains of sledges and caravans carrying out scientific glaciology study of the ice sheet of Antarctic and we had our very own 1st Intake Apprentice Evans there to pioneer it with his technical skill gained from, in the first instance, a place called Balcombe in 1948.

Pancho passed away on the 15th November 2010 and the following is a tribute by his old Balcombe mate Noel Cooper, 2nd Intake VM (posted on 16th November 2010 in the ANARE Aurora Journal).

"Vale Desmond Pancho Evans, Mawson 58, Wilkes 62

Pancho recently passed away after a long struggle with ill health. He had told me that his organs could not keep up with the fast pace of his early years. Also, some seven years ago, Pancho was stricken with a case of shingles that doctors on the Mornington Peninsula said they had not seen the like of before. The discomfort and pain he suffered dogged him until the end.

I first met Des in February 1949 when I joined the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in Victoria. Des was already a 1st Intake Apprentice (August 1948) and a tall handsome bloke at the age of 17. He had a good-looking woman tattooed on one shoulder and he stood out amongst us 15 to 17 year olds. He had a quiet nature that never left him, a great dry sense of

humour and was a very popular figure crooning and strumming his guitar. He always seemed to be sun tanned, said he could get a tan under a 40W light bulb!

*Pancho wintered at Mawson in 1958 after getting seconded from his DUKW maintenance duties on that re-supply trip. Later in 1962 he was to serve at Wilkes and with his great mate Gringo Collins, formed the dieso team that performed the miracles that enabled the six man party to successfully complete the Vostok traverse. Accounts of that then historic journey are worth reading in *The Silence Calling* or *The Coldest Place on Earth*.*

On that traverse, Pancho proudly carried a small flag of his Corps, the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). He donated the flag to the Army Logistic Museum at Bandiana where it is on display. He explained to a lady who enquired as to what the three colours represented, that the blue was for the sea that was never crossed, the yellow for the sands that were never fought on and the red for the blood that was never shed. He was too polite to tell her as he would to male enquirers that RAEME stood for the Royal Arse End of the Military Establishment. He did not mean that of course as he was proud of the service he gave to his Corps, both in the Antarctic, Australia and PNG.

Sadly the shingles finally prevented Pancho from pursuing his love of fishing in Western Port Bay where he lived. Eventually he could no longer drive a car and he became even more reclusive than he had been in recent years.

It was no surprise to learn that Pancho's ashes were scattered on the waters of Western Port Bay."

Conclusion

Both Des "Pancho" Evans and Noel "Shorty" Cooper were awarded Polar Medals for their efforts in support of the Antarctic Division. Neville "Gringo" Collins is alive and well and lives in Jacobs Well, Queensland.

I must acknowledge both Tim Bowden with his book *The Silence Calling* and Noel Cooper with his tribute in the ANARE Club journal *Aurora* to his old mate, as two sources of information in paying tribute to Desmond "Pancho" Evans. A life well spent.

Further reading

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbXN3aWxrZXNzdGF0aW9uaGlzdG9yeXxneDoyYjNhYzYwYmFiMDY5NGQ3>



The Balcombe flagpole at Beleura

From Rhonda Emery – many thanks Rhonda

The story of the flagpole gets amended every time I hear it but I will give you the correct history so you can make sure it is published correctly. The flagpole was rescued from a pile of rubbish by the owners of the property next to the Apprentices School in the middle of the night during the demolition of the site. It lay in their shed for the best part of 25 years (hence its relatively good condition). The owners had a Christmas tree plantation, and were keen gardeners. One of the family ended up as a gardener at Beleura House when the Christmas tree farm was sold off. He offered the flagpole to Anthony Knight, who manages Beleura, who subsequently erected it on site for many years. During construction of the function centre on site, the flagpole was taken down as it was located where the building was built. It lay on the verandah for another few years until I met Anthony at the International National Trust Conference in Cambridge, UK in 2015. I was talking to him about Mornington and mentioned that both my parents, Ron (21st VM) and Chris Emery, had served at the Apprentices School and, in fact, had met there and got married. He then told me he had the flagpole from the School. Knowing the unfortunate story of the Apprentices who had been killed moving the flagpole during Crab Night in the year my dad graduated, I relayed the story to Anthony who was unaware of the story. We then spent the better part of a year trying to determine if it was indeed the same flagpole or another one from the site. In any case, it was irrelevant as it was just nice that something survived from the site before it was demolished.

During the 50th Anniversary of the 21st Intake earlier this year, Anthony was very generous in hosting a group of 35 Apprentices and their families and we were able to look at the flagpole at which time we confirmed that it was wood so could not have been the one involved in the crab night incident. He also consulted with the group on where they would like it re-erected at Beleura and the round theatre garden was selected. In any case, Anthony contacted me some months ago to let me know that the flagpole was going to be re-erected in the space with a commemoration rose garden. So, that is pretty much it! Dad did not know about the flagpole, nor the family who originally acquired it from the site - unfortunately he passed away in 2012. I have no doubt that he would have been very chuffed at the discovery of the flagpole if he was still alive.

AAAA Committee

The AAAA Committee comprises the following members (welcome to our newest Committee Member, Phillip Gibbs, 24th Intake VM):

Management Sub-committee, comprising:

Office Bearers:

President - Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech

Vice President - Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter

Secretary & Memorial Sub-committee Member -

Neil Bennett, 13th VM

Treasurer & Merchandise Officer - Richard Pike, 21st VM

And:

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 - Otto Aberle, 21st VM

Memorial Sub-committee Chair -

Frank Poole, 10th Arch Draughtsman - **Life Member**

Other Committee Members:

Heritage Officer - Peter Thompson, 21st VM

Webmaster - Ian Morris, 12th Radio Mech - **Life Member**

Member & Social Media Administrator -

Joanne Cornelius, 43rd VM

Member, Newsletter Editor & Forum Moderator -

Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech

Member & Assistant Secretary - Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T

Member - Barry Minster, 20th Radio Mech

Member - Barry Teal, 10th Clerk

Member - Phillip Gibbs, 24th VM

Appointees:

Honorary Trustee & Memorial Sub-committee Member -

Jim Hislop, 9th F&T

Chaplains & Memorial Sub-committee Members -

Rev Alan Kelb, OAM, 25th F&T

Rev Craig Potter, 38th F&T (to be confirmed)

Auditor - Michael Farrar, 17th VM

Legal Adviser - **Vacant**

Regional Representatives:

NT - Kevin Forster, 28th VM

NQld - David Young, 30th Fitter Maint (to be confirmed)

SQld - Brian Daley, 14th VM - **Life Member**

NSW - Richard Pike, 21st VM

ACT - Frank Poole, 10th Arch Draughtsman - **Life Member**

Northern Vic & Memorial Sub-committee Member -

Jim Hislop, 9th F&T

Southern Vic - Matt Bouma, 30th C&J

Central Vic - Mark Ryan, 33rd Motor Mech (to be confirmed)

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 (to be confirmed)