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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

Volume 3, Issue 10

May 2018

Magnificent!

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

Greg Haggett, AAAA Vice President, when proposing the toast to Apprentices during the dinner, remarked that the Reunion was magnificent!

He started by saying, "At the 50th Reunion in 1998, Colonel John Hartley addressed the combined Apprentice group after we had 'marched' on to the parade ground at Latchford Barracks. I use that term 'march' loosely as it was more of a stroll than a march!! In his opening address, COL Hartley said, whilst looking at us all gathered in front of him, that one word came to his mind.

At that point I thought, 'Uh oh!', (expecting that he would admonish us for the lacklustre march on) but, to our collective relief, he continued on and said the one word, 'Magnificent'."

Greg continued, "Yesterday, at the Dawn Service and again tonight, I see exactly the same thing. We are truly a magnificent group of Australians who have served and continue to serve this beautiful country we love so dearly. We are brothers and sisters from other mothers and will be for life.

It is my absolute honour to lead the toast to all Apprentices. **Ladies and gentlemen, to all Australian Army Apprentices.**"

The many Facebook posts, and a full report on the Reunion to be posted on the Website in due course will tell the story far better than this Newsletter can. I have therefore inserted a few photos and accompanying words to whet your appetite.

This first one is of 1st and 49th Intake Apprentices at the Meet and Greet on the 24th. "The **eternal seniors** meet the **eternal sproggs!**" Pictured below are (L-R): 49th: Paul Burton, Todd Williams, Jason Roberts and Terry Hill; and 1st: Geoff Hawker, Douglas McCarthy, Max Brown and Keith Thomas.



Paul Burton, a 49th Plumber and Gasfitter wrote: (contd page 2)

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(from page 1). "The story behind the (above) photo is at the meet and greet, I had my kids Riley, 12 and Hayley, 8 with me. To give them something to do so I could catch up with a few mates, I asked them to go around and find a person with a 1st intake on their name tag. Not expecting them to find anyone, three beers later they come back and saying, 'Dad, Dad we have found four of them sitting out in the other room!' So out we go and heard some of the best stories and yarns of life of the first Apprentices. Definitely was the highlight of my trip."

The Anzac Day March and National Ceremony was also a magnificent event. With about 900 Apprentices marching, this represented perhaps one of the largest ever contingents to take the few steps up Anzac Pde to the Australian War Memorial.

Led by the Patron, BRIG Andrew Freeman, 40th Elec Fitter, AAAA Committee members, Keith Lowe, 22nd Fitter and Turner (Secretary), Richard Pike, 21st Vehicle Mech (Treasurer) and Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber and Gasfitter (Vice President) are shown in the photo below, followed by six Service Cadets carrying our new marching banner.



By the way, if you want to borrow the marching banner or one of the pull-up banners (as shown on page 1) for an Intake or other event, just let the Secretary know and arrangements will be made to provide it. Ensure you give plenty of notice of course.

For those who could only hear parts of the voice-over during the March (or for those who couldn't hear it at all), here's a copy:

"On 2nd August 1948, the Australian Army opened a trade training school in Victoria to meet the growing technological needs of the post-war Army. A system similar to a British Army boy training scheme was adopted. Soldiers aged from 15 to 17 1/2 years were enlisted to undergo a live-in, three-year trade

qualifying course at the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe.

After graduation, a further period of supervised on-the-job-training in regional military static workshops followed, before employment in an appropriate trade position in Army field force units. Training was initially three years followed by one-year OJT but, from 1976 for all trades except Electronics Tradesmen, two years' OJT followed only two years' training before AAS graduation. The initial service commitment for an Army Apprentice was for 9 years.

In December 1982, the School relocated from Balcombe to new, purpose-built facilities at Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla, near Wodonga and, from 1984 onwards, female Apprentices commenced training.

In 1991, the School was retitled the Army College of TAFE. This period also saw growing expectation for teenagers to complete senior high school and this trend greatly affected the numbers of suitable applicants. This brought about closure of the underage soldier trade training scheme and opening of the school facilities to Army Adult Trade Trainees.

The last Apprentice graduation parade was on 8th April 1995 and the College closed after graduating some 7500 Apprentices into the ARA as architectural draughtsmen, blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, clerks, electrical fitters and mechanics, electronics technicians, fitters and turners, motor mechanics, musicians, plumbers and gasfitters, radio mechanics, and welders.

As the 49th Intake completed their OJT in late 1998, it brought the Army Apprentice Scheme to a close after 50 years.

Many graduates have been commissioned with some achieving senior and general rank, while many others chose to leave the ARA and attained success in civil industry and commerce.

Graduates of the Army Apprentice Scheme have been credited with being the backbone of the maintenance of mobility and firepower of an ever-increasing, technically-oriented Army, providing electrical, mechanical and construction engineering expertise to every area in which the Australian Army has served, at home or overseas, peacekeeping or on active service, from Korea to current deployments."

The Last Post Ceremony at the AWM on the 26th, featuring CPL Ronald John Engstrom, 18th C&J, who was killed in Vietnam on 30 January 1970, was a memorable one. Some of those attending reported



having the opportunity to meet both Bob Semple, 98-year-old “Rat of Tobruk” and DR Brendan Nelson, AWM Director.

The dinner, also on the 26th, was attended by nearly 1100 Apprentices and their partners, wives, husbands, families and friends. The magnificent table layout (shown here prior to the dinner) was arranged in Intake order, allowing those attending to catch up with their immediate class mates, as well as being close to Intakes both adjacent to theirs, and far removed.



Jack Gamble, 4th Intake C&J was “optically embarrassed” (he left his glasses behind), so he couldn’t read out his poem. Those at the Reunion will have seen it on the back of the programme, but it is reproduced here for those who couldn’t attend:

“REUNION” by Jack Gamble, 4th Intake C&J

*As we gather here in Canberra
For our Seventieth celebration
Appies will come from everywhere
All points of our mighty Nation
Names and faces may be hard to match
As the years begin to have their toll
But memories will be floating back
Of a mate, a missing soul
For as we assemble for the parade
Spare a thought for all
Those that can't make it here today
They may have answered that last call
And after all the meet and greet
It's time for a yarn or two
Maybe it's about your first Crab night
Boy! Weren't there quite a few
There will be talk of which intake was great
Or if you were even or odd
Doesn't really matter this day
We're like teeth in a great big cog
The initial intakes must hold a place
Starting off our history supreme
These days we may not have youth on our side
But remember we're still Australia's Cream.*

Jack also reported on Facebook after the Reunion, “Well, Canberra turned on the good weather for us, a little warm at times (good to work up a thirst I'd say). It was great to meet up with so many old mates, especially those four 1st Intakes, have not seen a couple of them for well over 65 years or more. Never knew them as boys, they were well & truly men by the end of their 1st year when I (first) met them, (4th Intake). The ranks of them are slowly dwindling now sadly. But I had the pleasure of meeting some new faces for the very first time @ the Meet & greet also the dinner. You don't need to see a cap or a tie to pick out an Appy, there is some inbuilt (something) is it a personality (that) makes us stand out in a crowd, the know how or how to get around a situation one way or another, fair or foul, or is that a harsh way to put it? One thing for sure the Association will be in good hands for a long, long time. But what a fine job our present committees are doing, it would be unfair to name or single out a particular person among them for their efforts, they are a great team, congratulations to them all on their work.

It was hard to say farewell after the dinner, just as well we virtually got kicked out, the last topic being when & where we would see each other again.

But early next morning as I drove north & home I spotted a Nomad about ¼ hr out of the capital going in same direction as myself, so I gave him a blast on the horn as I passed, he also responded, the same again by another early bird just past Goulburn turn off. I stopped for a TOSKA at the Hawkesbury River & spotted another I met in the street in Canberra, a greaser from L.A.D @ Armoured Corps. So we are never far from old appy mates, no matter where we travel, spare some time for a yarn.

Congratulations to all for such a wonderful reunion. On behalf of a couple of mates that couldn't make it.

May the 4th be with you (always). An old chippie.”

From the President

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

To all who supported, contributed, planned and managed the reunion in Canberra, a very grateful thank you from all members. It provided the evidence that we mattered as Army Apprentices and more so today with the values that were embedded those many years ago: loyalty, trust, team player, friendship, never leave a mate behind.



Frank Poole, 10th Intake Architectural Draughtsman, who initiated the incorporation of our present Association in 2006, was the first President and subsequently became a Life Member, succumbed to his illness on 10 April 2018. His funeral was attended by myself and other Apprentices.

Our communication with the membership has been enhanced with social media, Facebook in particular. Please visit our Web page to check information about your Intake, and pass on the Newsletter to your contacts. <http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>

We are a military family, possibly the largest ex-service organisation in place today as displayed at the Anzac Day March – another reason to keep us proud of our Association.

Vale Frank Stewart Poole **10th Intake Architectural Draughtsman,** **16 April 1938 – 10 April 2018**

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

Frank's funeral service was held at Norwood Park Chapel, Mitchell, ACT on Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 1.30 pm.

The eulogy below was presented by Harry Hoger, President AAAA.

"Good afternoon to everyone.

My name is Harry Hoger and I am the current President of the Australian Army Apprentices Association. I would like to share with you Frank's start as an Army Apprentice and his involvement with our Association.



Frank at the Apprentices Together Reunion, Canberra, 28 Oct 2011
242949, Frank Stewart Poole, enlisted into the Australian Army in January 1955, as an Army Apprentice at the Apprentices School located at Balcombe, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria. His trade was Architectural Draughtsman and his Intake was

10th. He graduated in December 1957 and was posted to the Corps, Royal Australian Engineers where he had an outstanding military career.

In 2006, after leaving the military and working and living in Canberra, he approached the AWM to have a plaque for the Apprentices KIA to be located there. He was informed that to proceed we would have to be an incorporated association. Frank got together a working committee from ex-Apprentices and some still serving to establish the AAAA Inc in 2006.

Frank went back to the AWM about the plaque but was informed we needed to be a unit of a Corps, or the Corps itself as well. He researched what could be done, and, with help from the Defence Dept, located Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana, Wodonga, which has a memorial park. Today we have our own Memorial with plaque, which was a project that was taken to completion by Frank, having skills in this area. The memorial was dedicated in 2008.

Our most recent plaque for Army Apprentices is installed at the School of Military Engineering, Holsworthy, Sydney. This will be dedicated this year. Again, with his skills in this area, Frank took this project to completion.

Since 2006, Frank's contribution can be followed through our committee meeting minutes, AGM minutes and reports. He was the first President of our Association from 2006-2011. Since then he had been the Chair of our Memorial Committee to the present time. For his contribution to our Association, he was elevated to life member in 2011.

Next week we are conducting our National All Intakes Reunion here in Canberra, for which the planning started 18 months ago. Frank was heavily involved in this process and was all teed up ready for our Anzac Day March participation, until his illness.

He has made a valued contribution to the AAAA Inc. This effort is recognised and will be built upon in the future. I thank Frank's family for his time over the past years, and Val's on the many occasion I telephoned to speak with him. Also, in allowing me to be here and speak on behalf of all Army Apprentices.

We are deeply saddened by your loss and to reaffirm our memories of him will be with us well into the future. Thank you"

From Barry Teal, 10A Intake Clerk: "I think our Association owes much to Frank Poole. The stand outs are the reinvigoration he gave the original Association and the product of his hard work, diligence and



application to getting the job done – the Memorial at Bandiana – typically, characteristics of Army Apprentices. I had the privilege of being part of his 'sounding board' for both.

A common characteristic of the relationships found amongst former Army Apprentices is their persistent longevity. Those of us that have been blessed with a friendship, initially forged in the commonality of our experience in our formative years, rarely, if ever, attach any sense of definable value to their existence; there is neither time nor need. It is only when they are ended by death do we reflect upon their longevity and the contribution and value of their existence.

My friendship with him extended over 65 years and as I reflect upon it now I value it most high."

This final note comes from Ross King, 10th Intake Architectural Draughtsman, "On my way home from Canberra and the funeral of my friend and fellow 10th, Frank Poole, I was privileged by being allowed to visit the Apprentice Memorial at Bandiana, Frank's greatest achievement and gift to us all."



Upcoming events

Celebrating 70 years of Army Apprentices, 1948 - 2018

Date: Sunday 3 June 2018 **Time:** 1100 – 1600

Venue: Bulimba Bowls Club, Thynne Road (access off Quinn St), Balmoral BRISBANE

Dress: Casual

Catering: Sausage Sizzle at lunch, but feel free to bring your own if you wish. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use.

Drinks: Available at the bar.

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

If you know of any ex-Apprentices who may not be aware of the reunion, please pass this information on. Also, if you have access to any means of advertising the reunion, please feel free to do just that.

RSVP TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Brian Daley, 14th MV, 1 Michael St, Bulimba QLD 4171

Tel: 07 3399 1300 **Mobile:** 0412 721 761

Email: bjdaley14@gmail.com

Canberra Region Lunch 20 June 2018

ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

The lunch will again be held at the Southern Cross Club Woden, to use the second refund voucher paid to the Association. This time it will be a buffet lunch due to the renovation work being undertaken at the Club.

Those attending will pay the lunch coordinator, who will use the voucher and pay the money received back to the Association. Please let Jeff Heron know if you are attending at news@austarmyapprentice.org

AAAA Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 3 July 2018

The next Ordinary Committee meeting of the AAAA will be held at 1100 hrs, Tuesday 3 July 2018 at the Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay Sydney.

AABC Association Reunion and AABC 50th Anniversary, Canberra (2-4 August 2018)

Contact Kevin Noon – 14.5th Musician,
welfare@austarmyapprentice.org

Thursday 2 August 18:

4.50pm - Last Post Ceremony (AWM)
6.00pm - Meet & Greet (RMC SGTs Mess)

Friday 3 August 18:

AM (TBA) - AABC Association Golf Trophy (RMC Golf Club)

TBA - Combined Midday Concert by RMC Band and Basel Band (Poppy's Cafe)

Saturday 4 August 18:

9.00am - Association AGM (RMC SGTs Mess)

6.30pm for 7.15pm - Pre-dinner Drinks, followed by Association Dinner (AWM Aircraft Hall, 'G for George' area)

Sunday 5 August 18:

AM (TBA) - BBQ (RMC Bandroom) and Farewells.



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.

101 Fd Wksp Return to Sydney Reunion

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

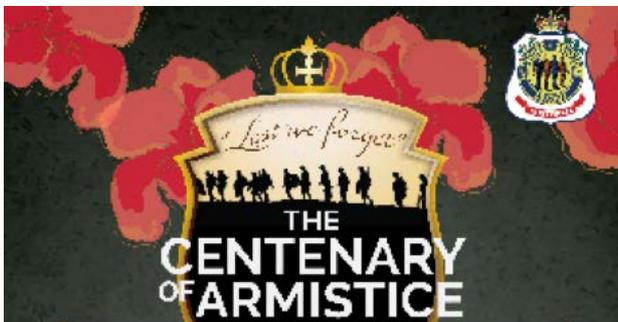
Venue: Liverpool Catholic Club, 485 Hoxton Park Rd, Prestons, NSW 2170

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. There will be two performances: 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 from the Princess Theatre, phone 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.

For more details, see the AAAA Website, [EVENTS](#).

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 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.

Guitars for Veterans Australia

By Dave Cox, 26th Intake Radio Mech



A new initiative is helping Australian veterans and former ADF members suffering the effects of PTSD express themselves through the power of music. A number of Australian veterans and former ADF members continue to live with the effects of PTSD, depression and the challenges of re-adjustment to normal life long after their service has concluded. To assist, Guitars for Veterans (G4VA) provides veterans with a gift guitar and lesson plan as an opportunity to learn a new skill and a creative outlet.

G4VA is a not-for-profit grassroots team that accepts donated guitars, re-purposes them and gifts them to willing veterans, along with a ten-lesson plan to help veterans learn how to play the instrument. By enabling veterans to create music at their own pace with expert tuition, the program aims to help veterans express their thoughts and experiences via music. Dave Cox, an ex-Appy, founder and team leader for the Melbourne based organisation, said *"The ability to simply enable the music potential within a person, it may just open new horizons, ideas and direction for one of our veterans."*

While managing the re-purposing of donated guitars and volunteers to provide lessons, and matching willing participants is the current goal, G4VA hopes to



expand in the long term with music forums and song-writing coaching, all of which will provide new opportunities for veterans to express themselves through music.



Jodi, a former ADF member for 8 years, recently received a donated guitar and commenced a structured lesson plan with a qualified instructor under the overview of G4VA – the first of many veterans

the organisation is seeking to support.

For enquiries, contact: Dave Cox, 0414754580, david.cox@pwcau.com

To support G4VA in donating guitars or volunteering to provide lessons, visit: Facebook – Guitars For Veterans Australia.

Barry Teal, 10A Clerk, First Class Honours

Barry Teal has earned the dubious honour of being the oldest student to be awarded first class honours by Deakin University for his thesis on the probable consequence of the loss of Australian-owned sea lift capacity post World War Two.



SPAASSM

Dale McKeough 1000th Association Member

Readers of the February 2018 Newsletter will recall that Dale McKeough, 24th F&T was identified as Association Member No 1000 and was the winner of a SPAASSM DVD. On receipt of his DVD, Dale wrote:

“Hi Jeff, Firstly, I received the DVD, what a surprise, thank you very much. What a magnificent collection of photos etc. Mind you I haven’t gone all the way through it yet. I didn’t think you could get so much info onto one disc. The ‘core group’ & the ‘part time group’ did a wonderful job. A couple of hours put in there. Ha Ha. Again thank you. Cheers, Stay Well, Dale”

Competition

This time, there’s no such simple way of receiving a SPAASSM DVD; back to the competition! In the Anzac Day March photo from the recent 70th Reunion below, who is the Apprentice 3rd from the right, apparently looking directly at the camera?



Of course, Committee members or the man himself may not enter. First correct answer to me at news@austarmyapprentice.org receives a copy of the SPAASSM DVD.

Canberra Region Lunch 14 Mar 2018

ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

Another change of venue this time saw 16 (15 Apprentices plus Jan Heron) enjoy a pleasant lunch at the Woden Southern Cross Club. Unfortunately, the usual Sydneysiders were again unable to make it due to a conflict with NSW RAEME activities. Lucky door prizes this time were Easter eggs. The next lunch should be at the same venue.

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) MAJ Paul Frederick PRICKETT (Retd), WA, 28th Intake Electrical Fitter

For meritorious devotion to duty as the Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, the School of Infantry and the Parachute Training School.



Major Prickett's performance as the Executive Officer of the three units is characterised by the utmost professionalism



and devotion to duty. He mentored and inspired his superiors, peers and subordinates alike, while his achievements improved Army's readiness, governance and administration processes, and had an outstanding influence on several generations of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Paul is pictured with his wife Clare.

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.

Readers are asked to advise the Welfare Officer of any deaths of Apprentices of which they become aware. If any member becomes aware of a fellow Apprentice who passes away, if the information is available, please include in your notification the NOK's name and address details.

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

Notification has been received of the passing of many ex-Apprentices and this information is much appreciated. Unfortunately, many of our former colleagues have passed away years ago, unrecorded.

Thanks again to Wally Rotow (18th Radio Mech) who continues to investigate various sources to compile lists of those who have previously passed away by Intakes and pass these lists on for recording in the Register and subsequently on our Website. Previous Newsletters have listed the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th,

11th and 15th Intakes. In this issue, he lists the 12th – 14th Intakes. Latest details as at 30 Apr 2018 are:

| Intake & trade | Name | Passed away |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 11 th VM | Thorpe, James Alfred | 30 Dec 17 |
| 14 th F&T | Milfull, Terence John | 4 Jul 14 |
| 14 th Radio Mech | Noldt, Arthur Keith (Keith) | 13 Feb 18 |
| 12 th Clerk | Haley, Stuart Patrick Francis | 2 Jan 91 |
| 12 th Clerk | Roberts, Gregory Paul | 1 Mar 15 |
| 12 th F&T | Booth, Barry John | 1 Aug 10 |
| 12 th F&T/13 th Clerk | Walsh, Francis Bede Walter | 1 Sep 13 |
| 12 th Musician | Bailey, Robert William | 20 Apr 05 |
| 12 th Musician | Philip, Richard Hawksley | 30 Mar 15 |
| 12 th Radio Mech | Haines, Michael John | 1 Dec 03 |
| 12 th VM | Bond, Garth | 24 Aug 13 |
| 12 th VM/Clerk (DNG) | Hutchins, William Eric | 23 Feb 01 |
| 12 th C&J | Reed, Robert William | 2014 |
| 13 th VM | Fogarty, Denis John | 20 Dec 13 |
| 13 th Clerk | Eastwood, Roy Charles | 4 Jan 17 |
| 13 th Clerk | Hogno, Dennis | 5 Apr 12 |
| 13 th Clerk | Koina, William Francis George | 4 Jan 13 |
| 27 th C&J (DNG) | O'Hara, David Anthony | 15 Aug 73 |
| 14 th (DNG) | Reichelt, Noel Stewart | 10 Oct 09 |
| 14 th C&J | Day, Kenneth Leonard | 17 Sep 15 |
| 14 th C&J (DNG) | Lang, Lindsay Duncan | 17 Jan 75 |
| 14 th C&J | Whelan, Grahame Leonard | 29 Jun 08 |
| 14 th Clerk | Wastell, Ian Marshall | 3 Nov 02 |
| 14 th Elec Fitter (DNG) | Harm, Ivan Harold | 6 Sep 90 |
| 14 th Musician | Toll, Roeland Leonard | 5 Jul 13 |
| 14 th Radio Mech | Chawynski, Vladimir Gregory | 22 Mar 17 |
| 14 th VM (DNG) | Leith, Robert Harold | 29 Sep 16 |
| 14 th VM (DNG) | Sutton, William Robert | 6 Nov 08 |
| 14 th VM (DNG) | Timms, Ronald Winston | 16 Jul 07 |
| 24 th VM | Millican, Lloyd Keith | 3 Mar 18 |
| 15 th (DNG) | Schmidt, Leslie Victor | 3 Nov 63 |
| 15 th C&J (DNG) | George, Alexander John | 18 Jan 17 |
| 15 th Musician (DNG) | Eyre, Robert Francis | 25 Jun 10 |
| 21 st Plumber/22 nd Musician | Monsuere, Dallas Clive | 2 Feb 18 |
| 46 th VM | Harman, Sean David | 30 Mar 18 |
| 10 th Architectural Draughtsman | Poole, Frank Stewart | 10 Apr 18 |
| 15 th F&T | Van Leeuwen, Arnold Dick | 14 Apr 18 |

Association merchandise

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

The Association **had** the items in the list below for sale until the 70th Reunion, at which time most of our stocks went. This is good news!



Richard Pike advises that he is in the process of reordering everything, including a limited run of 70th Reunion caps and stubby holders. Stock should be ready to go on line again in about 4 weeks.

Order form and contact details are on the Association Website, but take your time before placing any orders because things will probably change soon - <http://austarmyapprentice.org/merchandise/>

- 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
- Stubby cooler \$10.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- Keyring (Assn badge - ask for your no)  \$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

AAAA Committee

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

Certificate of Appreciation for Neil Bennett

By Keith Lowe, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner

In the November 2017 Newsletter, we advised that Neil Bennett, 13th Intake Vehicle Mechanic had stepped down from the Secretary role.



(L to R) Secretary Keith Lowe, Neil Bennett & President Harry Hoger

During the 70th Anniversary Dinner, Association Secretary Keith Lowe presented Neil with a Certificate of Appreciation from our Association for his six years of service as the Secretary. During the presentation,

Keith said that Neil had served the Association well from the 2011 Annual General Meeting until he retired at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Neil certainly brought a period of stability to the Secretary's position, as his predecessors had managed only one or two years. His insight into the Association contributed to a smooth transition for the new office bearer.

Vacancies

We are still carrying a couple of vacancies as you can see below. Please consider carefully your availability and your willingness to support the Association as a Committee Member. Most roles are not onerous, and you will be helping an increasing number of members and their families.

The Management Sub-committee comprises:

Office Bearers:

President - Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech

Vice President - Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter

Secretary - Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T

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 - Tim Wilde, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter

Memorial Sub-committee Chair - **Vacant**

Other Committee Members are:

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 - Phillip Gibbs, 24th VM

Member, Newsletter Editor -

Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech - **Life Member**

Member, Assistant Secretary - **Vacant**

Member - Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Radio Mech

The Appointees are:

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**

The Regional Representatives are:

NT - Kevin Forster, 28th VM

NQId - David Young, 30th Fitter Maint

SQId - Brian Daley, 14th VM - **Life Member, Memorial Sub-committee Member**



NSW - Richard Pike, 21st VM, **Treasurer, Merchandise Officer**

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

Request for photos, Peter Ferris

From Ellen Ferris ellenandrobin1@bigpond.com

"Hi, I am the wife of Peter Ferris, 27th intake (Electronics Tradesman). Peter passed away on 30 October 1999 (the date could be added to your list of deceased former members). I have very few photos of his younger and army days and I'd like to get some more if anyone had any with him in as I'd like to share them with our children.

Peter was in 102 Field Workshop, Lavarack, Townsville and prior to that in a Cav unit in Enoggera Brisbane. Peter took a discharge in early 1981 and I have lost contact with people we knew then.

If there is anyone you could refer my message onto who may have known Peter and have any photos from his army days that they could share I'd be most appreciative.

Thanks, Ellen Ferris"

Membership matters

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

The latest membership numbers as at 23 April 2018 are: Ordinary Members – 381; Retired Members – 442; Life Members – 3; Associates – 11; Total – 837. This is an increase of 70 since 1 March.

More Reunion reports

Thanks to Geoff Hawker, 1st Intake F&T who supplied this magnificent photo of six of the first two Intake

members, who enlisted in 1948, at the Anzac Day March in Canberra, 2018.



(Front row: L to R) Geoff Hawker, 1st F&T; Douglas McCarthy, 1st C&J; Keith Thomas, 1st F&T (pushed by Lyndon Brown), and Max Brown 1st C&J

(Second row: L to R) Herb Taylor, 2nd C&J; and Noel Cooper 2nd VM

Letter to the Committee

From John Rodgers

"Tim and Committee,

This is the first re-union I have attended, not just as an Appy. I was humbled by the experience and would have liked more time to catch up (with) those who left me with many good memories of my time at Balcombe.

I have been to many an Anzac Day Dawn Service and parade, but not marched in one as an ex-serviceman. This was a very humbling experience, and more so being at Canberra for the last of the 100-year remembrances of Anzac Day, added to (the) pleasure of being surrounded by Appies from the very first to the last intake.

I have no complaints, as I do not have anything to compare. However, I offer you and those who got this up and running and coming to a resounding finale with the dinner, the heartfelt thanks from my wife and me. An experience we will not soon forget.

Thank you very much."

In the interests of fair reporting, this is just one of the feedback messages from those attending the Reunion. Not all were as complimentary, and the Committee thanks all those who took the time to provide feedback, positive and negative, all of which will be examined with a view to help improve future events. (Ed)

Disclaimer

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