



# The Apprentice About

Newsletter for the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

Volume 1, Issue 8

Apr 2013

## From the President

Hello and hope you are all well. The Committee met recently at the Keilor RSL, here in Melbourne and the meeting was dominated with matters relating to the upcoming Balcombe Commemoration. Thank you to the staff and management of the RSL for your hospitality and use of your establishment. Frank Maloney has provided a rundown of events for the weekend and he has listed them in this newsletter, they are also on the web site. The attending numbers are approaching 400 registrations, so it promises to be a good weekend.

The recent Committee meeting also welcomed the Association's new Heritage Officer, Norm Wells. Norm, for those who don't know, hails from Western Australia and is a 14th intake VM – or greaser as he likes to refer to himself. He served in the ARA for 20 years and over the last decade or so has been heavily involved in Military Museums in WA at all levels right up to managing them. If you attended the Reunion in Canberra in 2011 you may remember Norm delivering an address at the Ceremony at the AWM on the Sunday.

Another West Australian, Tom Esze 36th VM, has volunteered his services for the position of West Australian Regional Representative. Tom is a Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer based in South Perth and is active amongst his intake. My sincere thanks to both these gentlemen for volunteering their services to the Association. Now if only someone in Sydney and Adelaide would put their hand up to take on the respective Regional Rep jobs we would have a full

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ACT Incorporation No A04404  
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

[www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)

Patron: Brig David Luhrs, CSC



## Membership Matters

The current membership of the AAAA is 498 members. We are in the middle of our March membership renewal campaign and I am still waiting for membership renewals from a number of members. If your membership was up for renewal, you will have received a letter from us with your membership details at the end of February. If you have lost your copy, or have moved in the last year or so and not told us, please get in contact with me and I will e-mail you a new renewal form.

We are also on the lookout for a new Membership Secretary. If you are interested in taking on this rewarding position, contact the president on [president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org)

All you need is a good working knowledge of Word, Excel and mail merging and a couple of hours a week.

*Craig Malcolm* (31<sup>st</sup> ET)

Membership Secretary

[Membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:Membership@austarmyapprentice.org)

## Editor Needed

Due to work commitments this is my last edition of Apprentice About. If you are interested in being the editor of this fantastic newsletter, contact the President at [president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1/2 From the President
- 1 Membership Matters
- 2 Memorial
- 3 Events
- 4 Did you know
- 4 AAAA Committee



book. If you are interested, please don't be shy, contact me via email [president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org) or by phone 0433 365 111.

The Association's Facebook group had a surge in new members early in the new year due to Mick Moran (35th VM) letting his mates on a RAEME Facebook page know about us. The pleasing aspect to the surge was the number of later intake Apprentices who joined us. If you haven't yet joined, regardless of intake number, get moving and do so, and if you are reading this as a result of a link on a Facebook page and are not an Association member, join up.

Frank Poole has written an article in this newsletter regarding the Memorial at Bandiana, reporting on the progress of some works that have been happening there. Not wanting to steal his thunder, I would like to thank Jock McWhinney and his son Peter, who I recently met, for their most generous donation which went to the purchase of the Apprentice Reflection Seat. Thank you also to all who played a part in the sourcing, delivery and installation of the seat – Mark Ryan 33rd, Lyndon Rice and Jim Hislop to name a few. If you are passing through the area, make sure you drop in and visit the Memorial – remember you cannot access the memorial precinct on Sundays.

Our financial Membership number is sitting on 586 as at the last Committee Meeting. I know there are a lot of readers of this newsletter who are not members for various reasons and a substantial number who were members who have not renewed. The Committee volunteer their time and work very hard to provide our Membership with professionally run major functions, a Memorial that reflects the spirit of the Army Apprentice, regular newsletters, a website and a Facebook group. Please, if you have not joined up, go to the website now and do so. While you are there take a few minutes and browse through the photos and Graduation Lists and reacquaint yourself with your past.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Balcombe Commemoration event in May, in the knowledge that you will have a great time and this will likely be the last official function ever celebrating the history of the Balcombe Camp. All the best and stay well.

*Lucas*

Lucas McGann - President  
[president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org)

## Memorial

Over the past few months a number of changes have taken place at the Memorial with a number of other additions planned.

Firstly, I would like to welcome to the Sub-Committee the Association's new Heritage Officer Norm Wells, who I know will be keenly interested in some of the planned new work for the Memorial.

The Memorial Wall is now constructed and has been finished with the words "LEST WE FORGET" installed. We will shortly be negotiating with AATTC for the intake KIA plaques, currently part of the Bonegilla avenue of remembrance to be relocated to the Memorial Wall. The Association considers this desirable as access to Bonegilla is no longer possible. We are examining the feasibility of installing on the Memorial Wall the names of all overseas sites at which Apprentices have served, and under these the names of any Apprentices who may have lost their lives serving in those regions. We have some way to go in defining what we mean by overseas deployment and loss of life serving there, and this will promote some work and research for the Sub-Committee before seeking approval from the Association Committee to go ahead.

You will now find that the Reflection Seat and naming plate are installed, which I am sure will be appreciated by our older community.

At last we have enough paver orders to have them made and added to the Memorial pavement, which should be completed in the next month.

A draft of a brochure explaining the significance of the various elements of the Memorial to Apprentices has been circulated to the Sub-Committee for comment. My thanks to Jeff Heron for assisting me with this task. The brochure will be available at the Army Museum and in a brochure box at the Memorial. Unfortunately, we have been unable to negotiate a way by which Apprentices can visit the Memorial on Sundays when the Army Museum is closed. However, we will keep trying to have visitations to the Memorial possible on Sundays.

I would like to thank all those Apprentices who include a donation for the Memorial in their membership applications/renewals and for those who send in a special donation. They are much appreciated and they allow the Memorial to remain a "living" memorial with continual upgrading and not just a static edifice. I will finish with my usual reminder to those who wish to be remembered by a Remembrance Plaque on the respective school wall that they should complete an Order Form, advise your NOK and lodge it with your will.

Finally, if passing Albury on your way to the Balcombe Commemorations, why not drop in and see your Memorial and visit the Army Museum.

Kind regards to all

Frank Poole  
 Chair – Memorial sub-committee



---

## Balcombe Barracks Commemoration 3 -5 May 2013

The Balcombe Commemoration planning is powering along beautifully. The registrations at this time are close to 400 and coming in at a good rate. We comfortably anticipate attendance of around 500, plus many more locals on the day at Balcombe. This is well within the Reunion dinner seating capacity of the Mornington Racing Club but if you are attending then I suggest you get your registration in without further delay.

The functions for the weekend remained unchanged as previously advised in newsletters and on the website at [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org) and for your convenience are summarized as follows:

### Friday 03 May 2013.

The venue is the Mornington Racing Club in Racecourse Rd Mornington commencing at 2.00 pm.

The event Registration, Association merchandising and goodwill coupled with plenty of finger food will continue until 8 pm. A little bit of officialdom and welcome is to briefly take place at 5.00 pm. Ample car parking is available, with lifts and escalator internal. Cash bar operating.

### Saturday 04 May 2013

Here we are at Balcombe (Nepean Hwy side) parked and seated by 2.00 pm

The ceremony of re-dedication of the old (Gates and Plaques), and the dedication of new (Plaques, Plinths and Balcombe History Story Boards (6), is to take place at the Balcombe Grammar School which is located where the old AAS Metal Trades Wing once stood. At the conclusion of the event people will be able to go down to the old AAS parade ground and Mace oval to view these fine works. As it is Shire property it is open daily to the public along with Citation Oval at Helena St. Mt Martha, which also has plaques relating to the US 1st Marine Division – well worth a visit.

### Now, about Balcombe Grammar School (BGS).

It is very much involved with this project and is keenly aware of the military heritage of the territory their school occupies. The school is now about 7 years old and boasts a student population in excess of 1000. They have kindly provided wet weather facilities, car parking for 300, student ushers / guides, youth band, vocalists and with the Shire, afternoon tea. As you would expect this daytime event is open to the public, and Reunion registered attendees will be seated in a reserved section. We old Balcombe veterans are very much indebted to BGS for the hospitality that has been extended to us.

The guest of Honour for this day is the elderly Mr Mick Mace, yep the man that built the oval for us.

### Saturday 04 May 2013

Back to the Mornington Racing Club for Dinner at 6.00 for 7.00 pm. This will be an enjoyable evening with the minimum of microphone use.

A Cash bar will be operating and we are required to be clear of the premises by 11.30 pm. The suggested dress is jacket and tie, miniatures are appropriate.

### Sunday 05 May 2013

Assembly area is in the vicinity of the Mornington Football Ground from 8.30 am

With the Army Band Melbourne leading, we step off at 9.00 am and march to the Mornington War Memorial, Barkly St via Main St for the Commemoration Memorial Service commencing at 9.20 am

Suggested dress is again jacket and tie, medals are appropriate.

This event is also open to the public and they are encouraged to participate.

This ceremony should conclude by 10.00 am with morning tea available at the DAVA Hotel from 1030 for 1 hour duration.

### Registration:

The fee is \$115.00 per person. It is open to all military and civilians who served at any time in the Balcombe Barracks area. Included is access to all of the activities shown above.

The forms can be downloaded from the website, but if you do not have internet access please call Frank Maloney on 0418 728 183 or Frank Poole on 0416 193 387.

### To all attendees:

Remember the fickle weather that can be encountered at Balcombe at this time of the year --- brollies are essential



## Did you know:-

**The number of apprentices to march into Balcombe was 6,293.** Over a thousand were DNG. The last intake to graduate from Balcombe were the 36th (less the ETs). The 37th did one year at Balcombe and one year at Bonegilla. The 36th ETs did two years at Balcombe and one at Bonegilla. The number of apprentices who actually graduated from Balcombe was 5,003.

## Did you know:-

**Not all apprentices spent 3 years at the Apprentices School:** From 1972 a 2+2 system was introduced with all trades serving 2 years at Balcombe- bar the Electronics trades who remained on a 3+1.

## BALCOMBE COMMEMORATION WORLD WIDE RADIO BROADCAST

A one hour radio program especially put together to advertise and celebrate the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration 2013 will go to air very shortly.

Music for the program has been especially recorded by the Australian Army Band. Lt Colonel Gordon Lambie Director of Army Music has gone out of his way to provide assistance with the Radio program.

City Park Radio based in Launceston Tasmania will air the special program on three occasions

The first program will go to air on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April between 1600 hrs and 1700hrs EST.

The second program will go to air via satellite to approximately 300 community stations right across Australia and will also be heard in the United States on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April between 00:06 and 1:06 EST.

We were unable to start the program at Midnight on Saturday due to the BBC world news service, the program will commence straight after the news.

The reason for the time is to allow many overseas listeners the opportunity to listen at a time suitable to their time zones. Some community stations will record the program for replay at a time that suits their program format

The third program will be aired by City Park Radio on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May (the day after the commemoration) this is being done to allow anyone who missed the program to hear it again

To listen to the program via the net go to [www.cityparkradio.com](http://www.cityparkradio.com) and click on the listen live icon. It is strongly recommended that you check your computer before the broadcasts to ensure your computer is correctly configured to tune in.

If you need to check on the availability of a Community Radio station in your area go to [www.cbonline.org.au](http://www.cbonline.org.au). The entire network is listed on this site and you can easily identify your local station

A lot of work has gone into the program and both Peter Thompson and Brian Watson of City Park Radio hope you enjoy the 2013 Balcombe Barracks Commemoration Radio broadcast.

## AAAA COMMITTEE

| POSITION               | Appointment                                      | POSITION                                 | Appointment    |
|------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| <b>Patron</b>          | Brigadier David Luhrs, CSC,<br>Commandant of RMC | <b>Membership Secretary</b>              | Vacant         |
| <b>President</b>       | Lucas McGann                                     | <b>Heritage Officer</b>                  | Norm Wells     |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | Barry Minster                                    | <b>Chair – memorial<br/>subcommittee</b> | Frank Pool     |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | Neil Bennett                                     | <b>Member</b>                            | Gary Byard     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | Owen Reynolds                                    | <b>Member</b>                            | Peter Muir     |
| <b>Welfare Officer</b> | Russell Evans                                    | <b>Member</b>                            | Jeff Heron     |
| <b>Public Officer</b>  | Ray Wilson                                       | <b>Member</b>                            | Bill Merton    |
| <b>Events Manager</b>  | Frank Maloney                                    | <b>Member</b>                            | Jock McWhinney |
| <b>Webmaster</b>       | Ian Morris                                       | <b>Member</b>                            | Bill Van Ree   |