



The Apprentice About

Newsletter for the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

Volume 2, Issue 3

August 2014

From the President

Just a short message this time. Firstly, I am pleased to report that the Facebook site continues to grow, having reached more than 500 members - an increase of almost 100 in the past three months. Facebook continues to be a vital way of instant communication between members and former members of our Association and, hopefully, it can provide an avenue for growing our financial membership as well.

On the subject of Facebook, due to some recent inappropriate posts on our site and other incidents, I have taken the opportunity of writing a "SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY DOCUMENT" which was tabled at the recent Committee meeting for comment. Ultimately, I intend that the policy will become part of our culture and it will be included in the proposed changes to the Constitution at the upcoming AGM in October. Regards to all.

Barry Minster (20th Radio Mech), President AAAA Inc
president@austarmyapprentice.org

2014 AGM Notice

Please note that maximum attendance is requested for the **2014 AGM** to be held at **1100 hrs** at the **Blazing Stump Hotel, 4315 Anzac Parade, Wodonga on Saturday 25th October**. See also the article on proposed revisions to the Constitution on p7.

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ACT Incorporation No A04404
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

www.austarmyapprentice.org

Patron: Brig David Luhrs, CSC



Vale - Anthony John (Curly) Curtain

On Saturday 21st June 2014, No 342561, 7th Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic, Anthony John (Curly) Curtain passed away.

His funeral was on Friday 27th June 2014 at Ulladulla, NSW, near Mollymook, Curly's home for many years. Representing the 7th Intake, this Association and the RAEME Association of NSW, Harry Cole reports that members of the Milton/Ulladulla RSL Club and Curly's family and friends also attended the funeral. Harry was honoured to be invited to give a eulogy on Curly's military life, particularly his early Balcombe days.



In spite of failing health, and without complaint, Curly was a keen fisherman and gardener, winning several awards in local council competitions for his garden. Over recent months, he had a couple of falls, breaking both hips, and had a number of operations. This restricted him and he was only able to work in his garden and watch his favourite Aussie Rules team, the Sydney Swans. His condition deteriorated and he passed away peacefully in hospital, aged 78.

He served in New Guinea in 1961/62 and later in SVN in 1968/69 as the ASM with the 3 CAV LAD. Curly was, for many years, a WO1 instructor at RAEME Trg Centre, Bandiana and later as a civilian instructor, until he retired and moved to Mollymook. He instructed many RAEME VM Apprentices during their trade training. His military service totalled 28 years.

RIP Curly, you may be gone, but you're not forgotten.



AAAA Memorial

There have been a number of activities associated with the Memorial since the last Apprentice About:

* **Remembrance plaques.** Installation of plaques is progressing for Jack Westernhagen (Life Member) and Fred Millar (1st Apprentice and Trustee). Jack's plaque has now been mounted on the Balcombe Wall and is waiting official unveiling with Fred's plaque, which is now being manufactured. When the date for this has been set, possibly late August, I will notify members via the Webpage and Facebook. It is expected that it will be the first occasion at which the new Order of Service to be used.

* **Order of Service.** With increasing numbers placing plaques and scattering ashes, I felt we had a need to provide a short service for those NOK who so wished. To that end, I enlisted the services of our Chaplains, who are members of the Memorial Sub-committee, to devise a suitable service that could be used by a layperson, rather than relying on the availability of one of our Chaplains. Their creative proposal was wholeheartedly accepted by the Sub-Committee and later by the Committee. I propose to produce the Order of Service as two small booklets, one for ashes and one for plaques, that can be personalised to include a photo and a short summary of service which will include mention of the Apprentice's Intake graduation details.

* **New plaque for flagpole.** It was discovered by Jim Hislop that a date on the RAE flagpole plaque was incorrect and we are having a new plaque made to replace the old.

* **Recognition of Apprentices who have lost their lives on overseas service.** The final list of Apprentices who have died on overseas operational service was agreed by the Sub-committee and has now been submitted to two foundries for a quote on the supply and mounting of these names onto the Remembrance Wall.

Newsletter contributions

If you have any items of news or other suitable material for inclusion in The Apprentice About, please contact a member of the Committee.

* **Pavers.** Requests for pavers are still coming in and, at the moment, Greg Mulcahy has five waiting for additional requests so that an order on the manufacturer can be sent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who generously donate to the Memorial upkeep and development, with donations included in membership renewals and applications and specific donations sent in to the Treasurer. I trust that members are satisfied with the manner in which this Sub-committee maintains and develops your Memorial. Your suggestions or comments are always welcome.

Don't forget that a colour brochure on the Memorial is available and is an ideal handout at reunions and luncheons.

I would like to thank the Sub-committee for assistance during this period. I particularly would like to thank Greg Mulcahy, Jim Hislop and Brian Nichols for their help as always.

Frank Poole (10th Architectural Draughtsman)
Chair, Memorial Sub-committee
memorial@austarmyapprentice.org

Membership Matters

Once again, the renewal drive for the second half of 2014 will commence early in August. This is not only for those 63 memberships falling due on 1st September, but a continuation to regain many who still have not renewed for 2012/2013, and for the first half of this year.

The table below shows the story of how many renewals are currently due.

•	Mar 12	8
•	Sep 12	22
•	Mar 13	44
•	Sep 13	28
•	Mar 14	71
•	Sep 14	63
•	Total	236

Need confirmation of your status? Please contact me on the email address over the page and I will happily follow up with you.



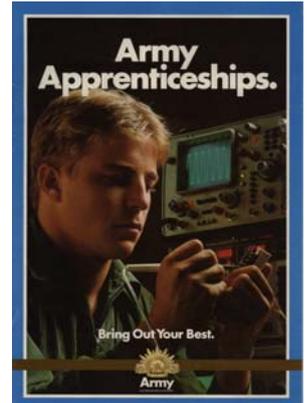
Membership Matters (contd)

Current membership state:

With a recent small improvement, we now have **489 financial members**, comprising:

- **Ordinary Memberships** 242
- **Retired Memberships** 239
- **Associate Memberships** 7
- **Life Memberships** 1

*Recruiting Booklet
Circa 1987
(from SPAASSM collection)*



Limited membership growth

Perhaps the continued growth of membership on social media may be having some impact, so this is a reminder to those who may be hesitant in renewing membership that, without continued strong support, the Committee will be restricted in pursuing the goals that have set our Association aside from many others.

Might you be one of those who have overlooked their reminders issued in 2012/13/14?

Gary Byard (21st VM), Membership Secretary
membership@austarmyapprentice.org

Annual Army Apprentices Reunion – South East Qld, 8th June 2014



The day, once again, was glorious for the 15th Annual Reunion of the Army Apprentices Assn – SE Qld, held at the Quarry Club (old Sgts Mess) Bulimba Barracks, on the river and under the Tree of Knowledge.

Approximately 100 Apprentices attended along with their wives, partners and families. The numbers included both instructors and Apprentices from all trades, including instructor Doug Croft, who was happy to recount many stories of his time with us during our training at Balcombe.

The youngest member attending was Jeff Dagan (43rd). The oldest included Bob Wright (8th), Roly Pritchard and Les Edis (both 9th) and Ian McVeigh and Mike Muirhead (both 11th). Apprentices came from far and wide and the furthest we are aware of was Mark Phillips (35th ET) from Orlando, Florida.

Stories flowed free, and the bar was drunk dry of light beer, champagne and wine! Although Bulimba Workshop is in the process of closing and moving to Amberley, we hope there will be time for at least one more Appy Reunion at Bulimba. We will keep you posted on this situation.

Brian Daley (14th VM)



Apprentices' Trade Proficiency Prize Medal

Medals were awarded annually, at least from 1956 to 1979, for excellence in trade progress, sport, regimental training, and qualities of leadership. In some years, there was only one Medal awarded per trade per intake and, in others, two (silver and bronze) were awarded. The obverse features the Apprentices' badge (less the scroll and with the "King's" crown), with two Commonwealth stars balanced either side of the crown. The reverse includes a laurel wreath and the words "AWARDED TO" at the top and the maker's name "STOKES" at the bottom. The recipient's name and sometimes regimental no/year/class were engraved in the centre of the wreath (with the award type at the top). This is by no means a final or complete description. Anyone with further evidence to support or expand the description is encouraged to contact the Editor (moderator@austarmyapprentice.org).



New Committee appointments

Hearty congratulations and many thanks to David Cooper (24th F&T) and David Miller (22nd Elec Fitter) who have offered their services as NT and SA Regional Representatives. Welcome aboard! **Please note**, we are still seeking a Vice President, Auditor and Legal Advisor. Why not offer your services at the next AGM, where replacements and new appointments will be required for a number of Committee positions, including Assistant Treasurer.

Association merchandise

The Association has the following items for sale:

• 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 Association badge)	\$5.00 (+\$1.00 P&H)
• AAS flag (School badge)	\$175.00 (+\$9.50 P&H)
• 60th Anniversary (2008) DVD	\$15.00 (+\$7.50 P&H)
• Balcombe Commemoration (2013) DVD	\$30.00 (+\$7.50 P&H)
• SPAASSM Collection DVD	\$25.00 (+\$7.50 P&H)



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

The Army Apprentices School Governor-General's Banner

(adapted from the program of the Official Opening of Latchford Barracks, 1983)

A banner embodies the history, spirit and tradition of the unit to which it belongs. It is highly valued, carefully guarded and treated with great respect.



The Governor-General's Banner was presented to the Army Apprentices School by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Sir Paul Hasluck GCMG, KStJ on 30th August 1969. The obverse of the Banner depicts the Standard of the Governor-General of Australia and is a symbol of loyalty to the throne. The reverse depicts the badge of the Army Apprentices School. The Army Apprentices School Governor-General's Banner pays compliments to only the Monarch and the Governor-General. The Army Apprentices School Governor-General's Banner is laid up at the Chapel of Saint Peter, Bonegilla, VIC.





SPAASSM Collection DVD

REMARKS BY GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD, JR., USMC,
COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION,
AT LUNCHEON, 1230, THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1954:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have come half way around the world to join with friends in creating a visible symbol of the bonds which tie the nations of Australia and the United States of America so closely together. Coupled with this

Response to the SPAASSM competition in the May newsletter was a little better. Harry Cole was the first with the correct answer but, as a Committee member, he is not eligible to win the prize. Another answer received, while inventive, was not correct – that person's own birthday (25th November 1954) was **not** what we were looking for! The event prior to the address by GEN Shepherd was, of course, the **dedication of the Memorial Gates at Balcombe** on 24th November 1954. Unfortunately, again, there were no eligible replies with the correct answer.



So, to tempt you once more, here's another really easy one! **The first email received by me correctly identifying the year of the Official Opening of Latchford Barracks at Bonegilla wins a copy of the SPAASSM DVD (Committee members excluded)!**

Jeff Heron (21st Radio Mech), Website Forum Moderator

moderator@austarmyapprentice.org

Upcoming events

REUNION UPDATE – 23rd to 25th OCTOBER 2015

Greetings all

The Association is planning a reunion in the Albury/Wodonga/Bandiana area in October 2015. At this time we are a little sketchy on specific details but I can revise the concept in outline.

I have received the approval of the Army Logistic Training Centre Commandant, Colonel Polich, who was delighted that we are once again returning to Bandiana/Latchford for our celebrations.

Friday 23rd

We have booked our Meet & Greet function, with registration, etc at The Cube in Hovell St, Wodonga from 1400 hrs to 1800 hrs. Cost to be determined for catering and venue hire – hopefully will not exceed \$ 15.00 pp.

Saturday 24th

a. I am still confident that it will involve a visit to ASEME (RTC), to view the current Army Trade Training structure, 1000 hrs to 1130 hrs. I am still awaiting official confirmation from the CO, LTCOL Phillips.

b. An activity in Albury, loosely based around the ANZAC Centenary and AAS Freedom of the City of Albury, 1400 hrs to 1530 hrs. This is still to be put together with Albury City Council Events, Ros Walls.

c. A reunion Dinner will be held at the Albury Civic Centre as in previous years, 1800 hrs for 1830 hrs start, concluding at 2300 hrs. This is the same location that we used in 2008 and has again been booked with Chelsea McGrath, at approx \$ 50.00 pp.



Upcoming events (contd)

Sunday 25th

- a. A Memorial Service at the AAS Memorial, Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana commencing at 0930.
- b. Morning Tea in the Bandiana Memorial Park followed by refreshments at 11.00. Catering by the Vietnam Veterans to be costed and confirmed.
- c. The Army Museum will be open from 11.00.
- d. The reunion will officially conclude at midday.

As is our custom, we are confident of having a number of distinguished guests both civilian and military in attendance at the appropriate functions.

Our Trustee Jim Hislop has done all the legwork at this time and my sincere thanks go to him.

Frank Maloney, 13th VM, AAAA Events events@austarmyapprentice.org

10th Intake Reunion – Albury/Wodonga 21st to 23rd October 2015

Initial planning:

21st - 1630 - 1900 Meet and Greet at Rydges Hotel; 22nd - 1000 - 1530 Coach tour of Albury area with lunch at a winery (not including the Army Museum); 22nd - 1900 - 2230 Dinner at a private room in the Commercial Club; 23rd - private time and Meet and Greet for the national Association event (see below) at the Army Museum Bandiana. Contact Frank Poole, 10th Architectural Draftsman, Frank.poole@grapevine.com.au

Farewell to Steele Barracks 4th to 6th October 2014

The School of Military Engineering is closing and moving from Moorebank to Holsworthy. Contact Wayne Voss, 24th F&T, waynev@phm.gov.au for more details.

Kokoda Trek – ANZAC Day 2015

Reid Ossington, 49th Motor Mech and two other ex-RAEME tradies are looking at trekking Kokoda for ANZAC day in 2015. He is looking for anyone who has done the trek and can recommend a good company to go through. He is also seeking other RAEME brothers out there interested in joining them? Cost estimates are between \$4500 and \$5000 inclusive of flights. Contact Reid at reid.ossington@hastingsdeering.com.au

22nd AAS Intake – 50 Year Reunion – 27th – 28th January 2017

There WILL be a reunion of the 22nd intake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our enlistment. All members and families are invited. Please contact any other 22nd Intake Appies you know who might be interested. Contact Mal Campbell, 22nd Elec Fitter at malc@malbargroup.com.au or write to PO Box 176 Milsons Point, NSW 1565.

Insurance cover for Intake reunions http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/

Please note that the Association's public liability insurance can cover Intake or other Apprentices reunions. Just ensure that the Secretary is notified of the event, and its location, dates and anticipated attendance. It will then be minuted at the next Committee meeting as an official Association event.

Sick Parade – Know of any Apprentices sick or in hospital? Please let your Regional Rep or a Committee member know.





Constitution changes

At the **upcoming AGM at 1100 hrs at the Blazing Stump Hotel, 4315 Anzac Parade, Wodonga on Saturday 25th October 2014**, the Committee will be proposing amendments to the Association Constitution. All members are welcome to propose such amendments and are invited to participate in the review. Below is a brief summary of the current proposed changes. Prior to the AGM, the finalised proposed changes will be advised to all members in time to consider them for approval at the AGM.

- Amend para 10 to allow the Committee to set fees without having to amend the Constitution.
- Insert new para 18, "Custody and use of common seal", to comply with the ACT Incorporations Act.
- Delete Committee and other forms to simplify changing them without having to amend the Constitution.
- Amend Annex A to ensure that Committee positions may only be drawn from the Association membership.
- Amend Annex A to limit Appointments (eg Patron, Trustee, etc) to a tenure of three years, although they will be eligible for re-appointment.
- Amend Annexes A and C to better describe the structure and role of the Memorial Sub-committee.
- Include a new Annex to formalise the Association's Social Media Policy.

DFRDB and DFRB pension indexation update *(copied from DFRDB Website)*

By now you should have received your pension update from ComSuper confirming your increase for this period. Pensions are adjusted twice a year on the first pension paydays in January and July.

The Government recently passed legislation that changes the way this adjustment is calculated for DFRDB and DFRB members aged 55 or older. If you are 55 or older at the pension indexation date (1st January or 1st July), your pension will be indexed for the following six months the same way as the Age and Service pensions are. If you are under 55 at the pension indexation date (that is on 1st January or 1st July), there is no change to the way your pension is indexed. It will continue to be adjusted by positive movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

How is my pension adjusted?

If your pension commenced part way through an indexation period, you will receive pro rata indexation to reflect the number of months for which you were receiving the pension. If you are 55 or over at a pension indexation date, your pension will be indexed in the same way as Age and Service pensions are indexed. Age and Service pensions are indexed by the greater of the CPI and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (LCI) measured against a floor percentage of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For more information, visit <http://dfrdb.gov.au/your-future/pension-indexation/>

Looking for staff or looking for work?

If you or members of your family or any of your friends are looking for staff or looking for work, the Association's Website Forum (http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/) provides a small service that might assist. Job vacancies are regularly advertised on behalf of MTU Detroit Diesel Australia (MTUDDA) and other organisations as well as listing the occasional person looking for work. Feel free to contact the Forum Moderator (moderator@austarmyapprentice.org) with any positions being advertised or sought.

Canberra region lunch *by Frank Poole ACT Regional Representative*

Our regular 4-monthly lunch was held on 12th June at the Thai House in Weston, attended by 20 Apprentices and wives. We enjoyed fine food, renewed friendships and exchanged the latest gossip. We were pleased to welcome Apprentices and two wives, some travelling from the south coast and Sydney. Our next luncheon will be in late October, date, location and time TBA. All welcome but, if outside the Canberra region or you are not a member, then let me know if you wish to attend (you would have received notice of the last lunch if I have you on my list).



Fabric of our Land – Australian Flag Song by David Cox, 26th Radio Mech

David's Australian Flag Song represents the true "Fabric of our Land", our people, respect for others and our way of life. His respect of the Flag began at Balcombe where he started writing this song. He thinks that today, more than ever, we need to stand up for this Flag, as the chatter for change builds quietly. We should never feel intimidated to be patriotic and proud of our country. This Flag represents who we are.

"Ask me mate, I'll tell you straight, why I love this flag; these stars on blue, the red white too, fills my heart with pride.

It flew from federation, uniting our young land, and held our sons under blazing guns, when their bodies met the sand.

This flag is not a logo or just another brand; it's the heart, the soul, the spirit; it's the fabric of our land.

This flag has flown 100 years, and will fly a 100 more. It's not just cloth and coloured twine, it's woven in our core.

It stands for hope, and honours all, that put their country first, and proudly tells our way of life, that other people thirst.

This flag is not a logo or just another brand; it's the heart, the soul, the spirit; it's the fabric of our land.

From muddy plains and jungle tracks, stitched on khaki green, it shows the world, we'll have a go, but respect for where we've been.

We welcome those across the sea looking for a brand new home, be part of us, and share the joy, and make this land your own.

This flag is not a logo or just another brand; it's the heart, the soul, the spirit; it's the fabric of our land.

Our flag of federation, that shimmers in the sun, its the symbol of our nation that keeps us all as one."



Watch and listen to the song on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH20jHJ0j4o&feature=youtu.be>

AAAA Committee

Management Sub-committee		Other Committee Members (contd):	
Office Bearers:		Member	Harry Cole - 7 th VM
President	Barry Minster - 20 th Radio Mech	Member	Bill Van Ree - 25 th Elec Mech
Vice President	Vacant	Member	Glenn Jones - 28 th C&J
Treasurer	Owen Reynolds - 13 th Elec Fitter	Merchandise	Richard Pike - 21 st VM
Secretary	Neil Bennett - 13 th VM	Regional Representatives:	
Plus:		NT	David Cooper - 24 th F&T
Membership Secretary	Gary Byard - 21 st VM	NQld	David Young - 30 th Fitter Maint
Public Officer	Ray Wilson - 15 th Plumber	SQld	Brian Daley - 14 th VM
Welfare Officer	Russell Evans - 23 rd Musician	NSW	Richard Pike - 21 st VM
Events Manager	Frank Maloney - 13 th VM	ACT	Frank Poole - 10 th Architectural Draughtsman
Heritage Officer	Norm Wells - 14 th VM	Northern Vic	Jim Hislop - 9 th F&T
Webmaster	Ian Morris - 12 th Radio Mech	Central Vic	Mark Ryan - 33 rd Motor Mech
Chair - Memorial Sub-committee	Frank Poole - 10 th Architectural Draughtsman	Southern Vic	Matt Bouma - 30 th C&J
Other Committee Members:		Vic Metro	Lucas McGann - 35 th Elec Fitter
Forum Moderator	Jeff Heron - 21 st Radio Mech	SA	David Miller - 22 nd Elec Fitter
Member	Harry Hoger - 20 th Radio Mech	Tas	Gary Byard RFD - 21 st VM
Member	Bill Mertin - 22 nd VM	WA	Tom Esze - 36 th Motor Mech
Appointments:			
Honorary Trustee	Jim Hislop - 9 th F&T	Chaplain	Rev Bryan Nichols JP - 11 th VM
Auditor	Vacant	Chaplain	Rev Craig Potter - 38 th F&T
Legal Advisor	Vacant	Chaplain	Rev Alan Kelb OAM - 25 th F&T