



The Apprentice About

Newsletter for the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

Volume 1, Issue 7

DEC 2012

From the President

I hope this edition of the Apprentice About finds you all as well as can be. There has been a lot activity on the Balcombe Commemoration front over the last couple of months, with a lot of the thankless and unseen, but incredibly important tasks, being completed. Peter Muir and Frank Maloney have put in above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the first weekend in May 2013 is a success. There seems to be a never ending list of people and authorities that need paperwork submitted so we can enjoy the weekend's activities. Thankfully for us and the other Associations involved in the weekend, Peter and Frank are coping without complaint and ploughing through.

The Association held it's AGM in October in Melbourne and I am delighted to announce to you that Barry Minster (20th RM) was elected to the position of Vice President of the Association. Barry brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Committee table. Barry also started up an Army Apprentice Facebook group some time ago, prior to him taking on the VP position. The group currently has 51 members and there has been some interesting topics discussed. If you are already 'on' Facebook, or you want wet your feet in it you are most welcome to join and participate.

Another new face on the Committee is Bill VanRee (25th). Frank Maloney has already put Bill to work helping out with some work – sourcing all the available accommodation in the Mornington area for our event next year. The list is on the website in the 'what's new' section. Thank you to both Barry and Bill and I am sure you will enjoy your time on the Committee. *(continued)*

AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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

www.austarmyapprentice.org

Patron: Brig David Luhrs, CSC



Membership Matters

The AAAA membership is still strong and we currently have 574 members.

September was membership renewal month for a number of you. At this stage, quite a few of you are yet to renew your membership, if you would like another copy of your renewal notice, please let me know.

Craig Malcolm (31st ET)

Membership Secretary

Membership@austarmyapprentice.org

Merry Christmas to all



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This time of year is my busiest time with work and I have not been all that active with Association duties, however I did manage to get to the Melbourne get together in October. It was attended by 38 Apprentices. I managed to make a very good contact in John Cutler (25th electrician) for work purposes and was entertained by a couple 23rd members, Peter Tarrant and Kim Aramini. Spike Edwards (1st) was front and centre again this year and in much better health than last year. Thank you to all who attended.

I have approached a number of the Balcombe intakes and a number of the Bonegilla intakes to find someone to take on the roll of Intake Liaison Officers. Damian Arthur (43rd) understandably declined at this point as he and his wife had just welcomed to the world their 10th child – he said that he might be a little short on time. It would be great if we could have a 'Bonegillan' in an official position with the association, so if you are post 38th intake and have a little spare time I would like to hear from you.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year and hope to see you all at Balcombe in May next year.

Lucas

Lucas McGann - President

president@austarmyapprentice.org

Memorial

Our memorial at Bandiana continues to develop and by all accounts is becoming quite a point of interest for visitors to the Army Museum.

Over the past twelve months we have seen the gates removed and sand blasted, powder coated and painted and minor repairs done to the gates and the hinges. The memorial Wall has been completed. The boulder with the KIA plaque attached has been removed from the RAEME memorial (a gift by the RAEME Association) and mounted in the front of the memorial. The edges to the garden have been raised to prevent soil and bark being scattered over the pavement and the reflection seat donated by Jock McWhinney is about to arrive at the Museum where Jim and his band of merry men will assemble it and mount it on the already prepared plinth.

We still need to have LEST WE FORGET made and placed on the Memorial Wall.

Jeff Heron has prepared a draft of a two fold A4 brochure explaining the significance of the elements that make up our Memorial and that will be printed and made available to visitors to the Army Museum.

The sub-committee is following up on an idea put to us that we should recognise, on the Memorial, all the overseas areas where Apprentices have been deployed. More on that later.

In the longer term we will be approaching ALTC to remove the KIA plaques in the Intake Avenue at Latchford and place them on the memorial wall.

Greg Mulcahy is holding a number of orders for pavers which cannot be submitted until we have a minimum order number, so if you are considering ordering a paver now is the time to do it.

If you wish your memory to be perpetuated on the school walls don't forget to complete an order form BEFORE you pass through the gates, leave it with your will and let your NOK know your wishes and what to do with the form.

I and the Memorial Sub-Committee wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and wealthy New Year

Frank Poole

Chair – Memorial sub-committee



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - REUNIONS

Do you have a reunion or event that you would like to announce to the membership?. If so, please let us know.

Balcombe Barracks Commemoration 3 -5 May 2013

The Australian Army Apprentices' Association (AAAA) is hosting an event in Mornington, VICTORIA over the weekend 3rd to 5th May 2013.

The AAAA has been in consultation with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for some years with a view to upgrading and adding items to enhance the military historical significance of Balcombe as a featured component of the Shire heritage plan. AAAA Events has always endeavoured to conduct an activity of significance that calls for the active participation of the membership at around two yearly intervals.

It seemed fairly straight forward to combine the two things and in that way we should get a good turnout for the Commemoration and also for the reunion that we have put together. The two complement each other very nicely, and should make for a great weekend in Mornington.

2013 also represents the 70th anniversary of the 1st Div USMC being repatriated to Balcombe after their successful Guadalcanal campaign. The 4th of May 2013 marks the 71st anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Australian Army Apprentices took part in the annual celebration of this battle for many years by being the Army component in the allied forces contingent that marched through the City of Melbourne.

It was decided that all of this activity would attract many "Balcombe Old Boys and Girls" who would wish to be a part of the proceedings. So AAAA Events have come up with a number of activities to make this a most memorable few days, and probably the last time that Balcombe, Mornington and the district as a whole will appear on our radar.

This gathering is inclusive of all those units and personnel that served in Balcombe Barracks i.e., Apprentices, Signals, Survey, Music, US Marines, WRAAC and including staff.

The Registration Form for this event can be downloaded from www.austarmyapprentice.org

38th Intake 30th Anniversary - Australia Day weekend 2013

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE 38th CLASS ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL 1983 - 2013

DATE: Australia day weekend 2013

Friday 25th Welcome drinks and nibbles Saturday 26th Dinner (both 1900-late)

VENUE: SS&A Club, Olive Street, Albury NSW

COST: \$50 per head (Drinks will be at bar prices)

There will be an unveiling of a plaque at the Army Apprentices Memorial at South Bandiana on Saturday followed by a BBQ lunch and a visit to the Army Museum. The reunion is open to 38th Class members, their families, ex-members of staff any other personnel who were associated with the class to renew old friendships. If you know of any 38th Class members who may not be aware of the reunion taking place could you please make an effort to 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 by 12 December 2012.

Ian McDonald

PO Box 1643

Wodonga Vic 3689

MOBILE 041 603 7735 Email: reunion38th@optusnet.com.au

http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=630



Association Website and Facebook page

The AAAA Inc. Website (<http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>) provides the Association's main Web presence. Anyone can access the site for information on:

- Latest news
- Our Objectives, Constitution and Prayer, and some facts and figures
- Committee information and contacts
- Memberships
- Intake listings
- Reunions and other notices via the Forum (see below)
- Newsletters
- The AAS Memorial
- Apprentices and other photos
- Sponsors and supporters and other links
- Members only area including: current Members list and meeting minutes

The Internet Forum (also known as a message board) provides a managed, online discussion site for Apprentices and others. You may access the Forum (that is post messages and read existing messages) by creating your own log in (*note - at this stage this is a different login to your AAAA Members only page login*).

The Forum Moderator (Jeff Heron, 21st Radio) is responsible for managing the Forum and making sure it remains relevant and up to date. He (or the Webmaster, Ian Morris) can also provide guidance on the use of the Forum. The Forum includes:

- Reunions and other notices, including: special notices, important topics, jobs wanted and opportunities, and breaking news
- General Forum section including: general feedback, individual intakes, 'looking for', and wanted and for sale

Barry Minster (20th Radio Mech) has kindly created a Facebook site [here](#) to host the Association group page. There's plenty of discussion there, including some great photos and history of the AAS. The Facebook page also provides a link to the Association Web site.

We look forward to seeing your contributions on Facebook.

When and where was your Grad parade held?

We are keen to build a list of the locations of all the graduation parades held over the years. For example: in Dec 1958, the 11th Intake's parade was on Mace Oval, and in Dec 1968, the 21st Intake's parade was on Citation Oval. What about the 1st Intake in Dec 1951? What about those 1/2 (Musician) Intakes? What about the intakes that trained at both Balcombe and Bonegilla?

If you have an excellent memory or, better still, evidence (such as photos) of when and where your parade (or other parades) were held, please email moderator@austarmyapprentice.org



POSITION	Appointment	POSITION	Appointment
Patron	Brigadier David Luhrs, CSC, Commandant of RMC	Membership Secretary	Craig Malcolm
President	Lucas McGann	Heritage Officer	Jim Hislop
Vice President	Barry Minster	Chair – memorial subcommittee	Frank Pool
Secretary	Neil Bennett	Member	Gary Byard
Treasurer	Owen Reynolds	Member	Peter Muir
Welfare Officer	Russell Evans	Member	Jeff Heron
Public Officer	Ray Wilson	Member	Bill Mertin
Events Manager	Frank Maloney	Member	Jock McWhinney
Webmaster	Ian Morris	Member	Bill VanRee

Looking for:

Are you trying to track down old Appy mates, but don't see their name on our membership list. If you are looking for someone, let the membership secretary (membership@austarmyapprentice.org) know and their name and intake will be listed here.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the names listed, please get them to contact the Membership Secretary, and he will put them in contact with those seeking them.

members are currently looking for:

Kevin John Moon – 17th Intake C&J
John Morrison - 22th Intake Fitter
John Charles Pearce - 36th intake Plumber