



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ACT Incorporation No A04404
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601 www.austarmyapprentice.org

Patron: Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM, Chief of Army

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE **September 2009**

Again, I seem to be behind the eight ball in getting out my quarterly update of happenings within the Association.

These past few months seem to have found myself and many of the Committee inordinately busy and unfortunately the Association activities have suffered accordingly.

It has also been a period where many of the Committee have been under the weather, notable Vice President Jack Westernhagen with heart and respiratory problems, Secretary Barry Teal with severe heart problems resulting from a previous virus and from stress and our Patron, Ken Gillespie with prostate cancer, which I am pleased to say was successfully operated on and Ken is now using his experience to urge regular check-ups and early treatment – all of us wearing trousers should head this warning.

We have also lost some of our colleagues in this period;

“Bud” Abbott	6 th Intake	C and J
Tom Loundes	24 th Intake	VM
Trevor Eisentrager	10 th Intake	F and T
Greg Wharton	24 th Intake	F and T
Jack Fairweather	4 th Intake	C and J
Frank Gardiner	6 th Intake	VM

There may be others, but these are the ones we have made aware of and to whom Rus Evans has sent condolences to the NOK from the Association.

Regional Activities

I am keen to get Regional Representatives to conduct a couple of Apprentice activities each year. I have suggested to them lunches, BBQs or an ANZAC Day breakfast, and I am looking forward to getting responses from them.

I know that Brian Daley runs a very successful BBQ each Queen's Birthday for Southern Queensland and I have just organised a small but successful lunch for the Canberra region. Let's hope we see an increasing number of social gatherings for Apprentices and their families.

I am looking for regional representatives for Tasmania, South Australia and SE Victoria. If you can help please let me know.

Membership

Our major income is from membership fees and although we try to keep our spending down we still have commitments to meet. These include insurances, incorporation fees, administration expenses, welfare and seeding funding for future events. We are now finding that the Committee is becoming more dispersed, and that is a good development, but it does at times involve travel to attend meetings.

Membership peaked last year with the Albury 60th celebrations, but we are still chasing up renewal from some members and our current financial membership stands at about 350. We are still servicing many of you who have not yet renewed membership; **SHAME**.

Please encourage any of your Apprentice mates who are not yet members of the Association to join up so that we can be more representative and the fees will allow us to do more in return. An Application Form and Renewal Form can be found on the web site.

Committee

Unfortunately, sickness, family and business commitments have meant that a number of our Committee have had to resign, that includes our foundation Treasurer Ray Wilson, our foundation Webmaster Rod Eagleton and secretary Barry Teal. You will have or will shortly receive the Notice of the AGM and can see which positions we will be seeking nominations for. PLEASE, if you can, ensure that all positions are filled by nominating for vacancies where you see your way clear to contribute. We are fortunate in that Ian Morris has stepped in as

Webmaster and in a couple of weeks will be taking over the web site and bringing it up to date as Rod unfortunately has been too committed by work to be able to devote the time he once had to keep the site up to date.

SPAASSM

Peter Thornton has been unwell for some time and Ian Morris and Bill Merton, assisted at times by yours truly have been progressing SPAASSM. We recently reached a milestone with 5,500 images that have been scanned/digitised, catalogued in a computer with the digitised image in a program developed by the team, originals checked against the catalogue and captioned where possible and originals cross references and placed in archive albums. Fifty documents have also been completed. These albums and the catalogue will shortly be passed back to the Army Museum at Bandiana. The team still has considerable work in front of them to handle the increasing number of images they are receiving from Apprentices and the need to put the SPAASSM catalogue up on the web site for interest and to try to identify some of the hundreds of uncaptioned images.

Army Apprentice Memorial

With the flag pole now delivered to Bandiana by SME and finally about to be erected, it now only leaves the donors and sponsors plaques to be manufactured and fitted to the right hand column to complete stage two of the memorial. Hopefully this will be completed prior to the AGM.

It has been suggested that the words "Balcombe 1948 – 1982" and "Bonegilla 1983 – 1995" be placed on each wing wall and memorial plaques can then be fixed to the appropriate wall. This idea will be taken up but it is not budgeted and will have to form part of phase three.

We will shortly be starting on fund raising and planning for phase three which will entail the construction of a memorial wall behind the gates to silhouette and better show off the gates, which at the moment tend to blend in with the foliage behind. It will also be possible for Apprentices to have their ashes (and those of their partner) interred in the wall along with an appropriate tablet. We intend to lower the dedication plaque which now partially obstructs the badge sculpture when viewed from the front of the memorial and to manufacture and erect the school names.

An application form for a memorial plaque for the wing walls is attached to this Update and will shortly be on the web site. If you know of any NOK or other person who may be interested, could you please pass this on them?

Balcombe Gates

I have approached Mornington Peninsula Shire to remove the old damaged, plinth by Mace Oval that once held the Balcombe Camp plaque which is now outside the gates. I have also approached them for preliminary views on expanding and reorganizing the whole area of the gates to better commemorate the occupation of Balcombe Camp and its significance to the Australian Army as a whole. This was suggested to me by Ken Gillespie and agreed by the Committee that it would be a worthwhile project for the Association. It will involve co-operation with the 1940 occupants, US 1st Marine Division, Survey Association, Signals Association, Army Band Association and possibly other groups who have had links with Balcombe.

Geoff Martin (our Heritage Officer) and I have been chasing up the local Bandiana staff to find out who is responsible for the intake trees that form the memorial avenue at Bonegilla. Many of the trees have died and a number of intake plaques appear to be missing. There appears to be a deal of buck passing going on and of course the drought makes a convenient excuse for the state of the avenue. I will report back on this issue when I get some clear idea of responsibilities.

Geoff has also been trying to find the whereabouts of the memorial plaque for the two 21st intake Apprentices that was last seen at Balcombe.

"Apprentices Together 2011"

Planning is now well underway for our next major Association event that will be held in Canberra over the period 27th October 2011 – 31st October 2011. The outline program is:

Thu 27th -Registration

Meet and Greet BBQ

Intake Reunions and intake dinners under arrangements of individual intakes.

Fri 28th - AM – Intake or free time

PM – Wreath laying at the Australian War Memorial

Afternoon tea at the AWM

Tour AWM

Closing ceremony at AWM

Evening free or intake activities

Sat 29th AM – free

PM – AGM preceded by talk from DVA representative and afternoon tea.

Evening – Association dinner at the Southern Cross Club

Sun 30th Church, Sporting day. (Bowls, golf, fishing, tennis, site-seeing, etc)

Mon 31st Duntroon Day

Address and questions “The Army Today” and “Trade Training Today and Yesterday”
Morning Tea
Static equipment display of modern Army gear
Farewell BBQ
Dismiss!!

The program has been developed to allow intakes to organize their own reunion and all intakes are asked to take advantage of this event and **not plan to have intake functions that may clash and reduce the numbers able to attend Apprentices Together 2011**. Canberra has been chosen as it is the medium centre for travel, has a range of accommodation options and has many interests for the whole family. Children (under control) will be welcome at all events except the Association dinner on the Saturday night.

For more information contact Frank Maloney, the Association Events Manager (frmal@bigpond.com) and watch the web page.

Association Brochure

Ian Morris has brought the Association brochure up to date and it will shortly be available for reunions and to Regional Representatives. It will also be up on the web page.

Insurances

The Association has been able to cover the following events under its Public Liability policy;

- Canberra luncheon
- 10th Intake reunion
- 12th Intake reunion
- 27th intake reunion

Intakes considering running an event should ensure they notify the Association of date, location and anticipated numbers so that the event can be minuted at a Committee meeting as an endorsed Association event.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Association will be held at the Army Museum at Bandiana in the afternoon of Saturday 24th October. There will be a BYO BBQ and a wreath laying at the Apprentice Memorial preceding the AGM and a dinner in the evening. This is an important meeting and you are asked to try to attend.

You will have, or shortly will, receive the full details for the AGM including nomination forms for vacant positions. Please help out and don't be shy in volunteering (either yourself or an agreeable mate).

Records

Wally Rotow is working with CARO to bring all Apprentice records up to date. A number of errors and omissions have been found in our primary source, the list of graduating Apprentices. To date, the search for old records has taken him to the Australian Archives, Army Museum, Bandiana, Bonegilla and Geelong.

Association Management System.

Herb Ellerbock is developing a new interactive management system for the Association. As our office bearers become more dispersed so the value of this system will be evident. Craig Malcolm is assisting him with membership management matters.

Regards to you all

Frank

Frank Poole LTCOL(R) RAE(tn)
President

Attachments:

- Application for Memorial Plaque
- Membership Application Form
- Membership Renewal Form

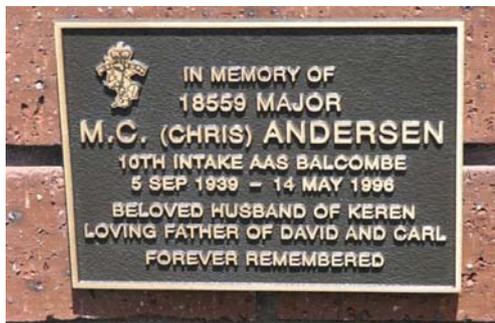
APPLICATION FOR THE PLACEMENT OF AN IN-MEMORIUM PLAQUE ON THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES MEMORIAL AT BANDIANA

The Australian Army Apprentices memorial at Bandiana provides a fitting and permanent place for Australian Army Apprentices to be remembered.

Many Apprentices credit their years at the School and the trade and social values that were taught for their later lifestyle, values and successes and above all for the enduring mateships that characterises the Australian Army Apprentice "club".

The Army Apprentice Memorial at Bandiana provides an enduring opportunity for our departed Apprentices to be remembered by visiting Apprentices, friends, relatives and visitors to the memorial. This very personal remembrance is in the form of a remembrance plaque which will be attached to the wing walls of the memorial.

Much as the Association would like to offer this service free for all departed Apprentices, we obviously cannot and we need to ensure our costs are covered. To this end, we have agreed to a standard cast bronze plaque measuring 200mm x 175mm which will at this point in time be \$450.00. For this the Association will have the plaque fabricated, taken to the memorial and affixed to the wall. An example of the type of plaque, but with the Apprentice School badge, is shown below, along with an image of the memorial.



APPLICATION

I wish to apply to have a Remembrance Plaque placed in the Australian Army Apprentices memorial at Bandiana. I am wife/partner/son/daughter/mother/father/friend/intake/brother/other (circle applicable) of the Apprentice named on the plaque.

Plaque Details (Please complete as appropriate)

IN MEMORY OF

LINE 1 - (Regimental No.)..... (Highest rank achieved) (total characters with spaces 15)
 LINE 2 - (Initials/given or nick name) (Family name) (total characters with spaces 25)
 LINE 3 - (Intake No.) **INTAKE** (Trade) (Corps) (total characters with spaces 40)
 LINE 4 - (Date Born) - (Date Died) (total characters with spaces 30)
 LINES 5,6,7 - (Message) (three lines, total characters per line with spaces 34)

I agree to the erection of this plaque and the wording above.

Signed: Date:

Contact details: Street Address:

Town:..... State:..... Postcode:.....

Phone: Mobile:

Email:

Notes:

1. This application should be forwarded to: Secretary Memorial Sub-Committee, Australian Army Apprentices Association, PO Box 2072, Canberra ACT 2601 along with full payment.
2. A proof of the plaque will be emailed or mailed to you for final approval.
3. On receipt of your approval, the plaque will be manufactured and delivered to Bandiana.
4. You will be advised of the date of the plaques attachment to the wall and you will be provided with photos of the plaque and the memorial. You will be able to attend the fixing of the plaque if you wish and at a mutually agreeable time..