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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: Major General Andrew Mathewson, AM

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From the President

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

This Association's Annual General Meeting for this year will be conducted at the Glenroy RSL Melbourne on Saturday 14th October. More detailed information is provided on pages 2 and 4 of this Newsletter. Please come along, participate, and support your Committee in managing your Association.

More photos are needed to populate our Website under [Photos](#) and [Events](#). Download large files onto a USB stick or micro SD and send them to the Webmaster via our PO Box. Please take a look at recent photos posted from [Bulimba](#) and [Balcombe Grammar](#) events this year. Photos archive our history in a practical and secure way. (contd page 2)

Letter to the President – Nuclear Tests

By Roy Vincent, 12th VM

Dear Harry

I am so very pleased to hear of the Anzac march in the ACT next year. This is a rare and unequalled opportunity for some history of the Apprentices School to be broadcast. I would imagine that you will be required to provide a brief for the television broadcast for inclusion in the commentary of the march. I know all the regular conflicts will be mentioned, plus all the

overseas areas that the Apprentices were involved in would be a matter of course to mention.

There is one area that does not normally gain a mention, which I know Apprentices were involved which I honestly believe should be mentioned, especially following this year's budget where it became part of the DVA budget. This refers to the involvement in the NUCLEAR TESTS in Australia at both EMU FIELD and MARALINGA in the period 1952-1963.



I know there were apprentices there; I was there myself during the Kitten and Vixen trials in 1961, and met others there also. I do not know if any Apprentice suffered from radiation exposure, and as such died, but I do not know the full extent of involvement. I would expect members of the RAE were there; I was RAEME, and the guys I met there were draftsmen (I think 10th or 11th) (contd page 2).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	1	Sailing for recovery – Dare Devil Racing	4
Letter to the President – Nuclear Tests	1	Membership matters	5
AGM Sat 14th October 2017, Melbourne	2	Apprentices Reunion and Anzac Day March	
Supporting BNT and BCOF Veterans	3	25 th April 2018 - Update	5
Vale notices	3	Other Upcoming events	6
Event reports	3	Brigadier Ross Grant (Rtd) AM, MBA – His Story	7
Association merchandise	4	21 st Intake Memorial Plaque	10
SPAASSM	4	AAAA Committee	10



From the President (contd from page 1) A digital Honour Board has been posted on our Website, under [About](#), where there is a drop-down list, the last entry being the AAAA Honour Board. This is an initiative of your Committee to give recognition to all who have contributed to the present Association.

The Committee welcomes Robert [Bob] Clarke, 22nd VM to this working group, to fill the vacancy left by Barry Teal, 10th Clerk. We wish Barry well for the future.

I look forward to working with the Committee to finalise arrangements for the Reunion next April in Canberra and keep the membership informed of our progress. Thank you.

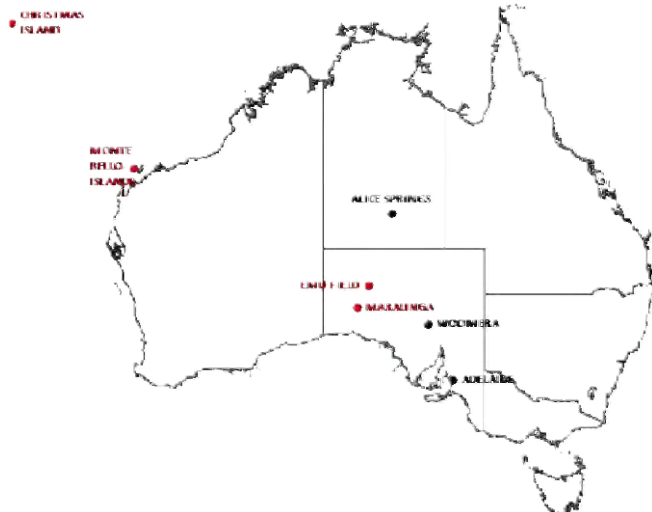
Letter to the President (contd from page 1) It is claimed that many personnel did have an early death due to duties at the range, but this has not been admitted by the government, but as from 1 July 2017 the government had issued the gold card to all veterans from the nuclear tests.

Just to give you a small idea, there was a total of approx. 17000 Australian servicemen and civilians attended the test areas, which also includes the Monte Bello Islands and Christmas Island tests (mainly naval I believe there) but there is only about 1800 of us left, though many would have died of old age as they may have been older at the time of the tests.

I believe this area of activity for the Apprentices is somewhat unique and should also represent part of the varied activities undertaken by our group over the many years Apprentices were in the service.

I leave these comments for you to consider.
Kind regards, Roy Vincent

Here's a map (Ed)



Maralinga now

Roy also writes, "I have no personal pictures from the 1961 period, as cameras were not allowed into the area, but here are a few (recent) photos from the range - I have visited twice in the last couple of years. This first one needs no explanation: it's the general warning sign of radiation in the area.

The second one is in front of the huge burial pit near test site Taranaki, where the major contamination of the range took place following the Vixen B minor tests of 1961. A huge pit was dug and all topsoil in the area was scraped off and buried to reduce the danger of plutonium particles, which littered the ground.

The last one is the actual ground zero for test site Taranaki, where the largest nuclear bomb of 26.5kt was detonated - bigger than Hiroshima at 19.6kt. This site was also used for the Vixen trials.



AGM Sat 14th October 2017, Melbourne

The Association AGM will be held at the Glenroy RSL, 186 Glenroy Rd, Glenroy, Vic 3046, from 1100 hrs.



Members are asked to arrive at 1000 hrs so their names can be recorded and be seated by 1030 hrs. Minutes and Reports are posted on the Website.

The following **Committee positions are subject to re-election**: President, Secretary, Events Manager, Heritage Officer, Webmaster, and three (3) Ordinary Committee Members. Nomination of candidates for election must be in writing, signed by two (2) Members of the Association, accompanied by the written consent of the candidate, and forwarded to the Secretary not less than seven (7) days before the AGM; ie: nominations close on Saturday, 7th Oct 2017.

Supporting BNT and BCOF Veterans

https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/about%20dva/budgets/2017-18_pbs.pdf

“The Government ... is providing veterans and civilians involved in the BNT program and BCOF veterans with a Gold Card from 1 July 2017.

The Gold Card will be provided under the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006 (BNT Act), and will effectively extend non-liability treatment eligibility already available to BNT participants under the BNT Act for cancer testing and cover treatment for all conditions. The Gold Card for BCOF veterans will also be provided under the BNT Act, which will be renamed to recognise its expanded coverage.

The approximately 1,800 surviving participants of the BNT program and approximately 1,100 surviving veterans who served as part of the BCOF will be able to access treatment for any condition under DVA arrangements, whether service-related or not.

Vale notices

From Kevin Noon, 14.5th Musician, Welfare Officer
welfare@austarmyapprentice.org

The Association’s objectives include promotion of the welfare of members and spouses. The Welfare Officer’s role in support of that objective includes advising of any passing of Apprentices so that the Association and its members may be aware and the information can be recorded. Vale notices are posted on the Association Website (<http://austarmyapprentice.org/vale/>) and other social media sites. Readers are asked to advise the Welfare Officer of any deaths of Apprentices of which they become aware.

Kevin has advised the following list of Apprentices who have passed away as at 22 Jul 2017 (note: older dates have only recently come to our notice).

Intake	Name	Address	Passed away
33 rd C&J	Bretag, Derek Hugh	Not available	~2000
33 rd VM	Boyle, John Francis	Not available	Unknown
33 rd F&T	Crimmins, David Mark	Not available	Unknown
33 rd C&J	Francis, Brian Robert	Not available	24 Jan 16
33 rd VM	Frankish, Shane Anthony	Cranbourne West, VIC	Unknown
18 th B/L	Henderson, Malcolm	Not available	20 Apr 17
19 th RM	Holman, Warren William (Bill)	Buderim, QLD	3 Jun 17
15 th VM	Jervis, Ronald Vincent	Mornington, VIC	15 Jun 17
33 rd F&T	McConville, Eamon Peter	Not available	Unknown
1 st (DNG)	Moore, Robert Charles Swannell	Manilla, NSW, buried Tamworth	17 Jul 96
1 st (DNG)	Mulley, Donald Hastings	Redcliffe, QLD	8 Oct 12
7 th Tels	Ross, Lawrence Michael (Mick)	Jerrabomberra, NSW	17 Jul 17
4 th Tels	Simmons, Noel Herbert	Castle Hill, NSW	2 Jun 17
29 th C&J	Tipton, Ricky John	Frankston Cemetery, VIC	11 Nov 75
32 nd EM	Volgyesi, Steven Robert	New Auckland, QLD	4 Apr 2000
33 rd C&J	Wiltshire, Michael	Not available	Unknown

Event reports

SE Qld AAS reunion, 3rd Jun 2017

By Phil Gibbs, 24th VM, Committee Member





Some photos from the reunion at Bulimba Bowls Club. As usual Brian Daley, his wife and helpers did a fantastic job and we really appreciate their efforts. It was a terrific day with glorious weather (because we live in God's country) which is probably the reason why we were still there till after the sun went down. (*What happened last year Phil? Ed*)

Canberra Region Lunch 28th Jun 2017

The lunch was again held at the Golden King Restaurant in Phillip. Seventeen attended (14 Appies, two partners Jan Heron and Tina Reynolds, and Harry Cole's guest, Finn Macussen, ex-Danish Navy). Three travelled from Sydney. As usual we had Geoff Hawker (2nd) and Herb Taylor (3rd) plus Bernie Sullivan and Harry Cole (7th) who are all in the 80+ years bracket. Thanks Frank Poole for organising the lunch. Unfortunately, Frank is in poor health at the moment and had to leave beforehand for treatment at hospital. We wish Frank a speedy recovery. Otto Aberle also couldn't make it but Harry relayed an update on the planning for next year's Anzac Day Reunion in Canberra (see page 5). The lunch was enjoyed by all with the restaurant again providing more than we could eat – much to the enjoyment of a couple of Canberra-based Appies who lived up to the tradition and took away doggie bags. The next luncheon will be Wednesday 27th September.

Association merchandise

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

The Association has the following items for sale. Order form and contact details are on the Association Website: <http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>

- 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 number) \$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



SPAASSM

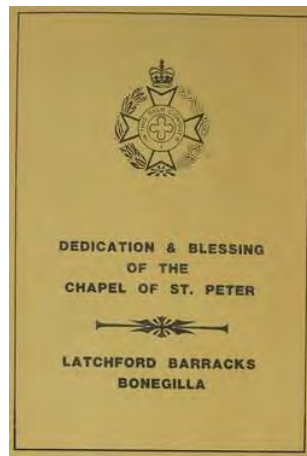
By Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech, Editor,
moderator@austarmyapprentice.org

May 2017 competition results

The building to the right of Dynans is, of course, the beautiful Art Deco T&G building in Dean St, Albury (<http://artdecobuildings.blogspot.com.au/2011/07/t-building-albury.html>). The company was founded in 1876, so we were looking for either "T&G" and/or "EST. 1876". We had a few correct answers, but the first I received was from Greg Bremen, 26th Radio Mech. Congratulations Greg, your SPAASSM disc has been mailed to you. And Dynans is now a newsagent.



August 2017 competition



The Chapel of St. Peter was dedicated at Bonegilla shortly after the AAS moved from Balcombe to Bonegilla, but exactly when? *The first person who emails me with the correct date gets a copy of the SPAASSM DVD.*

As usual, Committee members may not enter.

Sailing for recovery – Dare Devil Racing





Sibby Ilzhöfer (sibby@ais.international) sails Dare Devil, a Farr Cookson 47. Sibby has a passion for introducing people to sailing, especially those doing it tough after service with the ADF, Police or Emergency Svcs. Sibby writes: “... sometimes life can be tough. We understand that sometimes we do not recover so well after an incident or being in a war zone. We would like to make Dare Devil, a Sydney to Hobart contender available and share with you the joys we get from sailing! We often have to get the boat to the start line of a race, or back home after a race ... come for a sail and help us with that... join us on our journey ... to get her ready for the races, to get her to the start line and home again. The amazing times on the ocean with dolphins and whales – we want to share it all with you!” If you or someone you know needs a boost, this is a wonderful opportunity.

Membership matters

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

Current membership status:

Financial members (as at 27th Jul 2017):

• Ordinary Members	283
• Retired Members	333
• Life Members	3
• Associates	9
• Total	628

This is an increase of 41 compared to this time last year. Take-up of the 5-year membership is still quite high with 62% electing for a 5-year membership since the option was made available. We are rapidly approaching **Member No 1000** and, at the current rate, we will reach the magic number around the end of 2017 or just before the Reunion in April 2018. As an incentive to those who haven't yet joined, we are offering a prize to the person who is registered as Member No 1000. Watch this space.

Apprentices Reunion and Anzac Day March 25th April 2018 - Update

Contact Otto Aberle, 21st VM, Events Manager
events@austarmyapprentice.org.au

The Reunion to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Army Apprentices School will be held in Canberra over the period Tue 24th–Fri 27th April 2018. The two major highlights of the Reunion are: Anzac Day March in Canberra – our Association has been invited to be the lead contingent; and Last

Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on 26th April 2018 where an Army Apprentice will be honoured. All Army Apprentices are invited to march. The proposed program is as follows:



Date/Time	Activity	Location/Remarks
Tue 24 Apr 18 1500-2000	Registrations, Meet & Greet	Corinna Ballroom, Canberra Southern Cross Club
Wed 25 Apr 18 0430-0600	Dawn Service	AWM
0600-0900	Gunfire Breakfast	TBA
0930 - 1300	National Anzac Day March & Svc	Anzac Parade and AWM
Afternoon/ evening	Free	
Thur 26 Apr 18 0900 - 1330	Visit points of interest, including lunch, under own arrangements – some suggestions:	* Tidbinbilla Deep Space Tracking Station * Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House * National Gallery of Australia * National Arboretum * National Museum of Australia * Parliament House * National Film & Sound Archive * National Capital Exhibition
1400 - 1645	Tour AWM	AWM
1655-1730	Last Post Ceremony	AWM – honouring 18797 CPL RJ Engstrom, 18 th C&J, killed in Vietnam 30 th Jan 1970
1930 - late	Reunion Dinner	Corinna Ballroom, Southern Cross Club
Fri 27 Apr 18	Dispersal	Own arrangements

Costs - have not yet been finalised.

Registrations - are planned to open in Aug 2017.

Accommodation - is an individual responsibility
Some suggestions are - *Narrabundah Abode



Apartments; *Ibis Styles Canberra; *Best Western Garden City; Abode Woden (easy walking distance to the Southern Cross Club); and Mercure Canberra (easy walking distance to the AWM). *Narrabundah Abode Apartments, Ibis Styles Canberra, and Best Western Garden City are within easy walking distance of each other. There are also plenty of caravan parks for those not keen on paying hotel accommodation costs. It is strongly recommended that participants make accommodation reservations well before the Reunion start date.

Reunion sub-committee members are:

Chair - Otto Aberle

Treasurer - Richard Pike

Membership - Craig Malcolm

Graphics designer & registrations - Jeff Heron

Parade Marshall - Kevin Noon **Raffles** - Brian Daley

Members - Frank Poole, Harry Hoyer.

Other Upcoming events

Long Tan Day Wreath Laying and Services

Date: Friday, 18th Aug 2017, **Venue:** SME Holsworthy.

Vietnam Veterans' Day, Brisbane

Date: Friday, 18th August 2017, **Venue:** ANZAC Square.

5 FER Annual Reunion 2017, Brisbane

Date: Sun 20th Aug 17, **Venue:** Sherwood Forest Park.

Water Transport Reunion, Port Lincoln

Date: 13th – 15th October 2017, **Venue:** TBA

30 Terminal Sqn Reunion, Mosman

17th-19th Nov 17 - this is the 75th anniversary of the Army Terminal Operator (Termites) Trade. (Ed: And here is a link to the Association Website Forum http://austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/viewtopic.php?t=559 where Craig (Chook) Ingram, Termite 1987-1999, wrote about the 70th Anniversary in Sydney in 2012. He noted that "Three Dock Operation Companies (now Terminal Sqns) were established in April 1942 to carry out stevedoring duties in operation port areas and continue to this day."

NSW Regional get-together, 25th November

Contact Richard Pike, NSW Regional Rep and Treasurer treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org

NSW Appies are having one more get-together this year in Sydney, held at the Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbour

View Cres, Lavender Bay, 2060, starting at 12.00. Cost will be \$10 per head for the finger food and drinks are available at members' prices. Please pass the word around and let others know. Partners most welcome.

75th Anniversary of RAEME Events

The RAEME Head of Corps cell has promulgated the following proposed official events for the 75th Anniversary of RAEME. Further details will be released and there will be other events occurring:



- VIC - 11th Aug 17, 1645 hrs, Memorial Service at the Craftsman Memorial, South Bandiana hosted by ASEME, RSVP TBA
- VIC - 11th Aug 17, 1800 hrs, Dinner Function, South Bandiana hosted by ASEME, RSVP and cost TBA
- QLD - 26th Aug 17, 1900 hrs, NQ Region RAEME 75th All Ranks Anniversary Dinner, Townsville RSL, POC MAJ MJ FRY, OC 102 Fd Wksp, michael.fry@defence.gov.au
- SA - Aug/Sep 17, RASA All Ranks Dinner, Naval & Military Club, POC MAJ R Moyses, dick.moyses@defence.gov.au
- QLD - 2nd Sep 17, RAQ Sunshine Coast Lunch, Maroochy RSL, POC RAEME Assoc QLD
- QLD - 5th Nov 17, RAQ 75th Anniversary All Ranks Luncheon, Brisbane, Port Office Hotel
- QLD - 12th Nov 17, RAQ All Ranks Lunch at Fix Restaurant, Brisbane, POC RAEME Assoc QLD
- QLD - 24th Nov 17, RAMS Formal Dinner, POC WO1 T Chudziak, torsten.chudziak@defence.gov.au
- TAS - 26th Nov 17, Dinner, Anglesea Bks Officers Mess, POC Russell Clark, rclark44@bigpond.com
- QLD - 26th Aug 17, Dinner Function, Townsville RSL, POC MAJ M Fry, michael.fry@defence.gov.au
- NSW - 30th Nov 17, Mixed Ranks Dining In night, Holsworthy Bks, RSVP and cost TBA
- ACT - 1st Dec 17, parade, AWM Canberra, RSVP TBA
- ACT - 1st Dec 17, dinner, AWM Canberra, RSVP and cost TBA.
- VIC - 1st Dec 17, Dinner at the Clayton RSL, POC Alan Rogers, secretary@vic.raeme.org.au
- QLD - 1st Dec 17, 7 Bde RAEME Birthday, POC MAJ J Fleming, julian.fleming@defence.gov.au
- NT - 1st Dec 17, 1 Avn RAEME Birthday, Robertson Bks, POC LT E Kelderman, elizabeth.kelderman@defence.gov.au



- SA - 1st Dec 17, 16 ALR RAEME Birthday, Woodside Bks, POC LT T Davies, tayla.davies@defence.gov.au
- WA - 1st Dec 17, Perth RAEME Birthday with "Harry the Horse", POC Michael Nolan, michael.nolan@defence.gov.au

23rd Intake 50th Reunion, 20th–24th Jan 2018
 Contact Gary Sargent, gandsargent@bigpond.com

The 23rd Intake 50th Reunion will be held from the 20th–24th January 2018 in the Avenel/Nagambie area.

I have identified accommodation options and have a list of known email addresses from our Intake. Contact me if you need more details.

If you're attending and towing a caravan, camper trailer or in a motorhome, email Kim Armani at benmore2@bigpond.com to see if you can be accommodated at Rusty Springs. Let him know your rig setup; ie: solar, ensuite, size, etc.

We recommend that you look at suitable accommodation and book early. Look at the options

of sharing accommodation, as many houses/cabins have multiple bedrooms that accommodate couples.

We will be working on locking in the Reunion program getting it out to all. Under 12 months to go.

10th Intake Reunion Dinner, 24th April 2018
 Contact Frank Poole – 10th Architectural Draughtsman
 0416 193387, memorial@austarmyapprentice.org
 Venue to be advised.

HOLDFAST 2018 All Engineer Reunion
 Date: 4th – 7th May 2018, Venue: Bundaberg, Qld.

19th Intake Get Together, late-July 2018
 Contact Ian Hartshorn – 19th Radio Mech 0422 670080,
ian@testandtagsupplies.com.au

Ian needs to contact 19th Intake wheelers and dealers to plan a get together at the end of July 2018, planned as not to interfere with the Canberra Anzac Day. He has a list of the C Coy boys but nothing on the rest.
Can anyone help? Please contact Ian as above. (Ed)



Brigadier Ross Grant (Rtd) AM, MBA – His Story

Ross Grant completed over 37 years' service in the Australian Army, undertaking a series of command, aeronautical engineering, general engineering, project management, training, logistic and technical staff appointments. His various command and staff postings were in Land Command (Comd), Logistic Comd, Support Comd-Australia and the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO). From his humble roots, as the son of a pineapple farmer on the Sunshine Coast, QLD, he rose to the senior ranks of the ADF via the Army Apprentices School (AAS), the Officer Cadet School (OCS), and a wide variety of appointments. Ross is proud of his service, in particular his start at the AAS, which he says grounded him and prepared him for an interesting career – this is his story.

Ross started his Army service in 1962, as a 17th Intake Apprentice draughtsman. As luck, would have it, he was quickly advised that this trade was becoming redundant in the Army, and he had a choice of returning to his father's pineapple farm on the Sunshine Coast, or selecting another trade at Balcombe. The choice was easy, so Ross commenced training as a fitter and turner – this decision was made quickly, but never regretted. Ross graduated in Dec 1966 into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) – another choice he never regretted!

Right – App SGT Grant being congratulated by DGEME-A BRIG Bendall, Dec 1964



Following a stint at 3 Base Workshop (Wksp)/1 Medium Wksp, Ross was posted to the 1st Aviation Regiment Wksp at Amberley, QLD to train as an aircraft fitter. But fate intervened again, and that posting was never taken up, as he was selected with a large cohort of Apprentices, and long-standing friends, to attend OCS, Portsea, in 1966. He was subsequently commissioned as a 2LT in RAEME in Dec 66. Following full-time studies in aeronautical engineering at



RMIT, and completion of the Officers' Long Aeronautical Engineering Course in UK, he was appointed as an aircraft maintenance engineer to the 5th Base Wksp Battalion, initially at Amberley and later at Oakey, QLD.

For the next seven years, he served in a wide range of aircraft maintenance engineering appointments, providing support to the School of Army Aviation; raising and commanding 173 General Support Squadron Wksp, Oakey, and commanding and disbanding 183 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight Wksp, in PNG, from 1974-76.

On return from PNG, he undertook a short stint as the 2IC of the Aircraft Training Company, 5 Base Wksp, before being promoted to MAJ and posted as the OC 1st Aviation Regiment Wksp, Oakey, in its revised organisational structure, in Dec 1976. Serving in the Avn Regt for the next two years was a rewarding experience while the unit identified and developed its new role, and underwent significant change. Ross recalls the many exercises undertaken during that period as the regiment practised its new modus operandi in a TIB 28 construct, in a wide variety of regions around Australia, working with many different arms units and the SAS. As Ross says, 'aircraft of the regiment flew all over Australia and PNG and this provided valuable experience for the wksp in providing logistics support in widely dispersed localities with minimal resources. This included recovering many damaged or crashed aircraft from tricky situations.'



In 1979, Ross was posted to Logistic Comd as the Staff Officer Grade 2 (SO2) - Aircraft Maintenance, in Engineering Division (Eng Div), shortly afterward becoming a founding member of the Army's newly established Maintenance Engineering Agency (MEA), Melbourne. He attended Comd and Staff College, Queenscliff, in 1980 and, on graduation, was posted to Townsville to raise and command 102 Field Wksp (Light) as part of the newly established Rapid Deployment Force, based on 3 Bde. This period in the ground capability was most rewarding and provided a significant period of broadening which enhanced his career development.

Above – 1 Avn Regt Wksp operating out of Tindall on Ex 'Long Vigil' - 1977



102 Fd Wksp (Lt) official photo of the unit following its raising in Jun 1981

He was promoted to LTCOL in Jan 1983, to become the Staff Officer - Aircraft Maintenance/Test Equipment, and returned to MEA for a further two and a half years.

In Mar 1985, LTCOL Grant ventured into civilian industry, where he became Director of Development at Wesley College, Melbourne, and later undertook consultancy work in private practice. During this four-year period, he maintained his connection with the Army as an active member of the Army Reserve, as SO1 Logistics on HQ 3 Div.

He resumed full time military service in 1989 and was posted to HQ Logistic Comd and, quickly afterwards, the 1st Base Wksp Bn, Brisbane, as CO. His posting to Brisbane was his first period of service in the city where he enlisted 28 years previously, and was his favourite posting, not just because of the locality, but also because of the variety and quality of work undertaken by base wksp at that time. Ross says, 'the organisational structure of base wksp at this stage of their development had very well balanced workforces – uniformed personnel, public service staff and



contractors – all working in harmony. It was at this time that the threat of outsourcing all 4th line repair and maintenance, undertaken traditionally by base workshops, turned into reality.

Promoted COL in 1990, he was appointed Commander of the newly established Brisbane Logistic Group, remaining at Bulimba, but where his next 18 months were spent raising and developing this new amalgamated logistics organisation and preparing it for market testing under the Commercial Support Program.

In Jan 1993, he became Director Army Aircraft Projects, in Materiel Div (Air Force), Canberra, responsible for the acquisition of Black Hawk, Chinook, Nomad and a Simulated Aircraft Maintenance Trainer for Black Hawk helicopters. His first posting to Canberra!

After only a short time in Air Force Office, he was appointed Director Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – Army, and Head of Corps RAEME, superseding COL Larry Foley, in Dec 1993. This was Ross' most productive and enjoyable posting and cemented the faith he carries to this day, in the capacity of his Corps, and its diverse members. During his tenure, he was able to visit every RAEME unit, or sub-unit, in the Australian Army (some 179 units at that time) and hear first-hand from unit commanders and senior staff officers, exactly what they thought of the Corps – it was overwhelmingly favourable. Ross says he only visited three units where he received negative feedback and there were good reasons for this, and they largely had nothing to do with the RAEME members, of the units concerned.



He was promoted BRIG in Dec 1995 and appointed Director General Materiel - Army (DGMAT-A). In 1997, as a result of the Defence Reform Program (DRP), the position of DGMAT-A became redundant and BRIG Grant was appointed DG Ground and Amphibious Warfare Systems within the newly developed Defence Acquisition Organisation. He completed his service in 1999, as the newly appointed DG Engineering (Army) in Support Comd – Australia and, on retirement, took up a position at the Anglican Church Grammar School 'Churchie', in Brisbane, as Director Strategic Planning and Systems. On completion of a five-year contract in Feb 2004, he moved to UK, where he undertook consultancy work, and substantial travel, before returning to Australia in Aug 2006.

On his return, he undertook a significant study, as an Army Reserve Officer, into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Defence Integrated Distribution System (DIDS), a largely outsourced function while, at the same time completing a major study into the land materiel maintenance system. This led to opportunities to work firstly in the newly established DMO as a senior public servant in the emerging projects area, followed by a long period of service with one of Australia's largest consulting firms, KPMG. Ross believes the opportunity to contribute to several large ADF projects over these years not only provided significant job satisfaction, but saw him contribute to major restructuring of the ADF's 4th line facilities and business processes.

Newly appointed DEME-A Jan 1994 (left)

This included work with the Defence Logistic Transformation Program (DLTP); a major review of maintenance support Army Aviation, Plan Pelican, and later a similar project for the delivery of maintenance support to the ground capability, Plan Centaur, which is ongoing. During his final few years of military service, Brigadier Grant completed an MBA in Project Management at the University of Southern Queensland. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia, in the June 1998 Queen's Birthday Honours List for 'exceptional services to materiel acquisition and logistics'. In 2016, he retired from KPMG and now lives in Bli Bli, Queensland, where he pursues his interest in travel, bush and distance walking and cycling, his responsibilities as Patron of the RAEME Association QLD (RAQ), ongoing studies in military history and maintaining his fitness. Somewhere during this period, he also led a team, which produced the most recent edition of the RAEME Corps' history, 'Craftsmen of the Australian Army – 1942-2014'. He is married to Leonie, and he has two adult sons from a previous marriage.



BRIG Grant (centre), with 17th classmate MAJ Andy Turner (Rtd), (left) and another close friend, 19th Radio Mech and former Deputy DEME-A, LTCOL Brian (Buck) Jones (then COL COMDT VIC) (right) at a Corps dinner, Bandiana

21st Intake Memorial Plaque

Having finally met the Mornington Shire Council's requirements, we are pleased to announce that, at long last, the Memorial Plaque for 21st Intake Apprentices Jo Pearce and Peter Russell was mounted earlier this year by Ian Barton, 21st VM. The plaque was an initiative of the 21st Intake's 50th Anniversary of Graduation held over the period 19th – 21st Feb 2016. Those familiar with Balcombe and the sad events of 29 Aug 1968 will know that the plaque is just inside the Memorial "Marine" Gates on Nepean Highway, adjacent to where the accident occurred.



AAAA Committee

Regretfully, due to health concerns, Barry Teal has decided to stand down from his position on the Committee. Thank you Barry for your support and our best wishes for the future. Robert (Bob) Clarke, 22nd VM has stepped up. Welcome to the Committee Bob.

Management Sub-committee, comprising:

Office Bearers:

President - Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech

Vice President - Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter

Secretary - Neil Bennett, 13th VM

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 - Otto Aberle, 21st VM

Memorial Sub-committee Chair - Frank Poole, 10th Architectural Draughtsman - **Life Member**

Other Committee Members (Mbrs):

Heritage Officer & Memorial Sub-committee Secretary - Peter Thompson, 21st VM

Webmaster - Ian Morris, 12th Radio Mech - **Life Member Member** - Bob Clark, 22nd VM

Member, Social Media Admin - Joanne Cornelius, 43rd VM **Member** - Phillip Gibbs, 24th VM

Member, Newsletter Editor & Forum Moderator - Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech

Member, Assistant Secretary - Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T

Member - Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Radio Mech

Appointees:

Honorary Trustee & Memorial Sub-committee Member - Jim Hislop, 9th F&T

Chaplains & Memorial Sub-committee Members - Rev Alan Kelb, OAM, 25th F&T
Rev Craig Potter, 38th F&T

Auditor - Michael Farrar, 17th VM

Legal Adviser - **Vacant**

Regional Representatives:

NT - Kevin Forster, 28th VM

NQld - David Young, 30th Fitter Maint

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

NSW - Richard Pike, 21st VM

ACT - Frank Poole, 10th Arch Draughtsman - **Life Member**

N Vic - Jim Hislop, 9th F&T

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