



The Apprentice About

Newsletter for the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2014

From the President

2014 has proven to be far more interesting than I imagined when I took on the role of your President last October.

The Management Committee met in Canberra on 1st March to discuss a multitude of items, all relevant to our Association. I draw your attention to the minutes of that meeting, which are on our Website for you to peruse. Our next Committee meeting will be held again in Canberra but on a Wednesday, as nearly all of the Committee are retired and travel to Canberra is easier on a weekday. If you wish to bring any matter to the Committee's attention, then please contact our Secretary and he will add it to the agenda.

I have been called upon on several occasions recently to represent our Association at funerals of esteemed members, including our No 1 Apprentice Fred Millar. In doing these tasks I feel more connected to our heritage than ever before.

Indeed, my own 50th anniversary of joining the Army will occur next January and I know that more than 18 former C Company (Electrical Trades) 20th Intake Apprentices plan to gather in Hastings, Vic to spend a couple of days reflecting on our collective histories. Some are travelling from overseas and many from interstate just to be with their fellow classmates.

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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 – Fred Millar, Honorary Trustee

We regret to advise that Fred Millar, Trustee for five years, passed away on 26th February 2014. His funeral service was held in Frankston on 3rd March. Fred was indeed a unique character and a strong and loyal supporter of the AAAA.



Prior to WWII, except for light repairs to military vehicles and some signals equipment, repairs were conducted by Ordnance Corps Workshops. In 1939, the Army decided to expand and to adopt the British Army "Boy Tradesmen" scheme, with a trial in Tasmania. Fred was selected and enlisted as an "Army Apprentice", to Anglesea Barracks workshop, on 10th Jul, aged 16.

From 1939 to 1969, Fred was posted to 10 MT Workshop, 9 Watercraft Workshop, Milne Bay and Tasmania Command Workshop; attended courses in UK; was posted to 7 Armoured Division, Germany; assisted with the atomic tests in the Monte Bello Islands; was commissioned; was posted to RAEME Training Centre, Ingleburn, 18 National Service Battalion, Seymour Area Workshop, 101 Infantry Workshop, 28 Brigade British Gurkha Division, the Army Apprentices School, Deputy Assistant Director EME Central Command, and Central Command Workshop; and, after retiring as a LTCOL, served in the CMF for two years.

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I encourage all Apprentices to join in on their respective reunions – our time as Apprentices was a defining period in our lives and cemented our commitment to our nation.

Shortly, the Federal Government will announce the ballot for the 2015 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. If any Apprentice is chosen to go, then I would hope that he or she will carry some tangible symbol of the Apprentices Association with our ANZAC history (maybe a giant crab).

I am pleased that our Website redevelopment has completed its design phase after many months and I congratulate all those involved in bringing it up to date with new features. (It will roll out soon – Editor.)

Finally I would like as many of us as possible to attend our AGM, which will be held at Bandiana, Victoria on Saturday 25th October, commencing at 1000 hours (location to be confirmed).

Jim Hislop, 9th Intake (RAEME) has accepted the position of Trustee of our Association and we thank him for agreeing to fulfil this important role. I believe we need to continually look to promoting our heritage and there is no one better placed or experienced than Jim. Congratulations.

Barry and his wife Judith

Barry Minster (20th Radio Mech)
President AAAA Inc

president@austarmyapprentice.org
<http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/membership.htm>



Membership Matters

Committee vacancies

The Committee is seeking a Vice President and someone to act as Legal Advisor. Additionally, the positions of Regional Representative for both NT and SA are vacant. Regional Representatives represent the Association in the Regions, particularly on welfare matters. Please consider volunteering your services.

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.

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Fred invented the Millar Bridge for vehicles to cross obstacles using steel wire ropes – adopted by the Australian and British Armies and the Geological Svy Dept in Guadalcanal to replace bridges destroyed in WWII. In civilian life, Fred was a stockbroker, a merchant banker, the MD of two companies, service manager for Mazda Australia in Victoria/Tasmania, owner/manager of a take-away food business, a management consultant, and he patented water purification technologies.

AAAA Memorial

Dedicated on 26th October 2008 to all Apprentices who supported the Australian Army in war and peace, the **Memorial** allows Apprentices and their families to record, by means of inscribed pavers or plaques, their place as Army Apprentices and may also be used as a resting place for their ashes. It incorporates many icons of Apprenticeship days so visitors can reminisce on their time at the Army Apprentices School and remember mates no longer with us.

Recent changes include the boulder with engraved names of Apprentices who died on active service. This was originally part of the RAEME Memorial and was given by RAEME to the Association. The **Reflection Seat**, donated by Jock McWhinney (10th Blacksmith), allows visitors to rest and reflect on the values that the Army Apprentice Scheme gave to the Army and to each person who passed that way.

A colourful and informative brochure describing the significance of the various icons of the Memorial is available by contacting Frank Poole. This brochure is ideal for including in reunion papers.

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



Memorial photo courtesy Greg Mulcahy



Membership Matters (contd)

Current membership state:

We currently have 407 financial members, comprising:

- Ordinary Memberships 207
- Retired Memberships 193
- Associate Memberships 6
- Life Memberships 1

The image shows a 'Reply Paid Card' for the Army Apprentices School. It features the school's crest and a request for more information. The card includes fields for Name, Birth date, Address, Postcode, Current year of schooling, School attending, and Phone. A yellow triangular sticker on the right says 'ASK ABOUT LATEST PAY RATES'. The card is marked 'Reply Paid Card' on the right edge.

AAS Recruiting card 1994 (from SPAASSM collection)

While membership is showing decline, the recent March renewal drive suffered from an IT issue and a re-run of 148 reminders has recently been dispatched. Total renewals due as at March 2014 are 284.

Perhaps the continued growth of membership on social media is also having some impact. A reminder to those who may be hesitant in renewing membership that, without continued strong support, the Committee will be restricted in pursuing those aims and goals that have set our Association aside from many others. Might you be one of those who may have overlooked the reminders issued in 2013? Need confirmation of your status? Please contact me on the email address below and I will happily follow up for you.

Change of address

Members who change their address in the period between membership renewals are asked to advise me of their new contact details, particularly those with 3-year memberships. If anyone knows of any members who may have changed their contact details, please ensure they advise me.

Gary Byard (21st VM)

Membership Secretary

membership@austarmyapprentice.org



Social media

The recent "explosion" in the use of social media and their application to mobile and Web-based technologies allows people and groups to share and discuss virtually anything quickly, conveniently and even without having to sit down at a computer. In today's busy business, private and public world, we can remain connected with family, friends and former workmates. The Australian Army Apprentices Association has two prime means to offer such a base for Apprentices to communicate: our Website and Facebook.

Website (<http://www.austarmyapprentice.org>)

The Website is fully operational but is currently being redeveloped. Watch this space!

Facebook

The President reports that there are four separate Apprentice Groups and several Intake-specific Groups currently running on Facebook. The largest Group is specific to Bonegilla but Barry has been accepted as a member of this Group; at the time of writing, it has 672 members. This exceeds the Group he began several years ago (Army Apprentices Association [Australia]), currently with 474 members. The other two Groups have 247 and 202 members respectively.

Barry suspects that the four Groups have some common members but feels that an audit would probably show that more than 700 Apprentices are active on Facebook. He posts matters on all four Groups when asked to disseminate information. That way everyone gets to see the information.



New Trustee, Jim Hislop

On 2nd April 2014, Barry Minster, President AAAA reported:

"I am pleased to confirm that LTCOL Jim Hislop has agreed to be our Trustee and requires the usual fee expected by Apprentices ..."

Jim steps into the role following the sad loss of our previous Trustee, Fred Millar, who served for five years before passing away on 26th February 2014 (see page 1).

Regimental No 58606, James Glen Hislop, 9th Intake Fitter and Turner, enlisted in 1954 and graduated in 1956.

Association merchandise

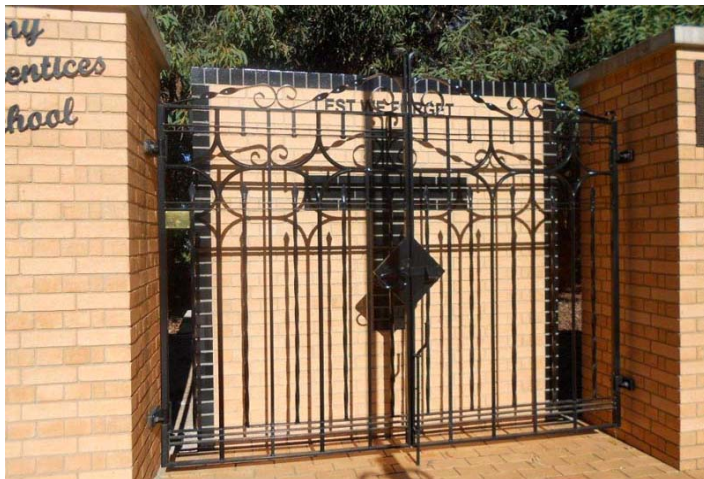
The Association has the following items for sale:

• Association tie	\$25.00	(+\$5.00 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	(+\$2.50 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>

AAAA Memorial in brief (*photos courtesy Greg Mulcahy*)



The Memorial Wall silhouettes the gates and holds the names of Apprentices who lost their lives whilst on active service.

The Reflection Seat plaque



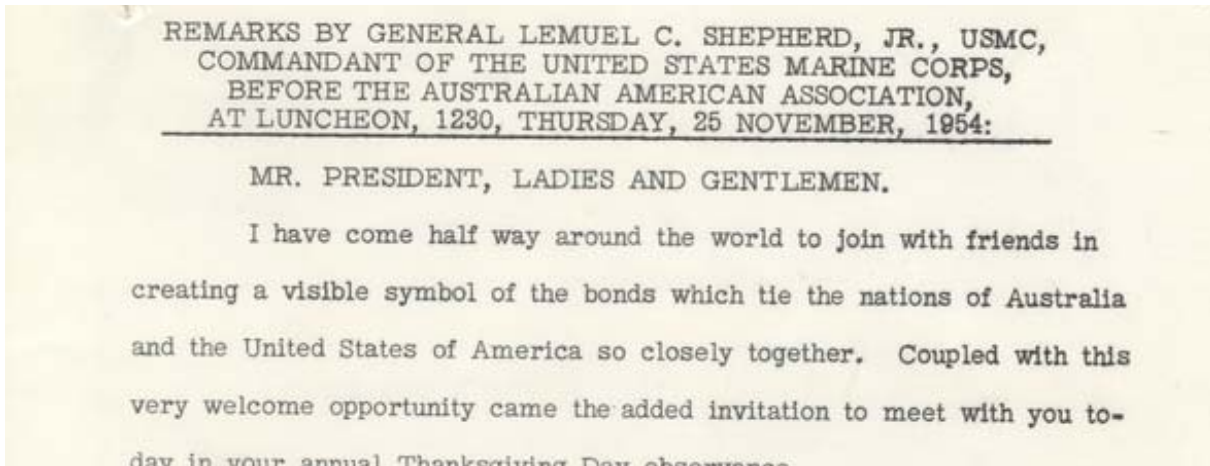


SPAASSM Collection DVD

Apparently the last competition was too hard! There were no entries received naming **8th Intake Vehicle Mechanics, Ron Behan (closer to the camera) and Tom Heeson.**



So here's part of another image from the SPAASSM Collection DVD to test your brains, this time much easier.



The first email received by the Forum Moderator correctly identifying the unique event that occurred the day before this address extract (hint – it's to do with Army Apprentices) wins a copy of the SPAASSM DVD (Committee members excluded)!



Jeff Heron (21st Radio Mech), Website Forum Moderator moderator@austarmyapprentice.org

Upcoming events

Brisbane reunion – celebrating 66 years of Army Apprentices – 1948 to 2014

Date: Sunday, 8th June 2014 (Queen's Birthday weekend)

Venue: Bulimba Bks, Quarry Club (the old Offrs'/Sgts' Mess, on the river), Apollo Road, Bulimba, QLD 4171

Time: 1100 – 1600 **Dress:** Casual **Catering:** There will be a sausage sizzle at lunch but feel free to bring your own. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use. Drinks will be available at the bar.

Who's invited? The reunion is open to ex-Apprentices, their families, ex-members of staff any other personnel who were associated with Apprentices and wish to renew old friendships. If you know of any ex-Apprentices who may not be aware of the reunion taking place, 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 Brian Daley, 14th VM, 07 3399 1300, 0412 721761, **email:** bjdaley@hotmail.com

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.



Upcoming events (contd)

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

DATE CLAIMER – 23rd to 25th OCTOBER 2015

The Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) is pleased to announce that it is planning another gathering, which we try to do at least every two years. Many will recall the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration in 2013 and the excellent numbers that made that event such a success.

2015 will again see us providing a social format to enable us all to join together and enjoy our company. The itinerary is still in the early stages of planning; however, I can advise that the event will be held in the Albury/Wodonga/Bandiana areas over the weekend of 23rd to 25th October 2015. A broad outline of events would look something like:

Friday: A Meet and Greet at a local venue from 2.00 pm until 8.00 pm with finger food etc, registration, merchandising goodies, etc.

Saturday: (1) Visit the trade training facility at Latchford Barracks (ASEME) 10.00 am until 12.00 pm with lunch included; and/or (2) a function in Albury in the afternoon, structured around the AAS Freedom of the City of Albury and the Gallipoli centenary; and (3) 6.00 pm, Reunion Dinner, venue to be selected.

Sunday: Remembrance service 10.00 am at the AAS Memorial, Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana South, followed by brunch and dispersal.

Detailed arrangements should be completed and available by the end of October 2014 at the latest. Just keep a close watch on our website and Facebook. Any comments/suggestions are most welcome, to me please.

Regards to all, Frank Maloney, AAAA Events, frmal@bigpond.com or 0418 728 181

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 be minuted at the next Committee meeting as an official Association event.



Constitution changes

At the upcoming AGM in October, 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 strengthen the description of the structure and role of the Memorial Subcommittee.

Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) update www.dfw.org.au

The AAAA is a paid-up Group Member of the DFWA, and supports the DFWA's efforts to achieve fair indexation for all DFRB/DFRDB pensioners, retirees under the MSBS scheme, and DVA Disability Pensioners. The DFWA Monthly Update #282 – February 2014 included some great news on the "Fair Go" campaign":

"Yes.....the injustice for which DFWA and its partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) have fought for many years will soon, at least in part, see remedy. The superannuation pensions of DFRB/DFRDB recipients over 55 will, with effect 1 July 2014, be indexed in the same way as age and service pensions. The hard work of a dedicated band of unified ex brothers and sisters-in-arms over 20 years will finally accrue a small dividend."

This was, however, not the full solution sought by the ADSO and the leadership group continued its dialogue with the Government to achieve a better result for all DFRB/DFRDB pensioners, retirees under the MSBS scheme, and DVA Disability Pensioners.

The Daily Telegraph reported on 15th March 2014 "... that legislation will be introduced next week to reform the retirement scheme for the defence forces and boost their pensions in line with the cost of living. The changes will affect 57,000 retired servicemen and women and their families when the changes come in from July 1 this year, ending the inequity for those who had served more than 20 years in the defence forces."

The Bill finally passed both Houses on 27th March 2014 and, on 9th April 2014, the *Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Act 2014*, was assented. See: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r5195

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 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 with any positions being advertised or sought.

http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/



Reduced cost postage stamps to Government concession card holders

Do you have an Australian Federal Government concession card? You may be eligible for a reduced rate on domestic stamps, and other offers? See <http://auspost.com.au/mypost>.

Benefits:

- Free booklet of 5 concession stamps
- Ability to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year
- Discount on Mail Hold and Mail Redirection
- A free MyPost Concession Card and digital mailbox.

How to apply:

1. Check if you're eligible using the list below
2. Complete and print out the application form
3. Take the form to your closest post office, along with your valid Federal Government concession card
4. Receive your free booklet of 5 stamps and your MyPost card in the mail within 14 days.

The following Australian Federal Government concession cards are accepted as proof of eligibility for a MyPost Concession Account:

Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Department of Veterans' Affairs Card, Veterans' Repatriation Health Card

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	Vacant *
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	Vacant *
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

* See "Membership Matters" on page 2 for Committee vacancies.