



# THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INC.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (ACT Incorporation No A04404)  
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Patron: Major General Andrew Mathewson, AM

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## From the President

By Harry Hoger 20<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech, President AAAA  
[president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org)

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM was successfully held at Bulimba Bowls Club, and was well supported by many members. Thank you to Life Member Brian Daley and his wife Barbara for their support in conducting this event. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Club; to Frank Maloney, who stood down from the committee after 10 years; and to Damien Tyrell, outgoing Welfare Officer. Thank you to you both for your support while on the committee. Congratulations to Peter Thompson, 21<sup>st</sup> VM and Barry Teal, 10<sup>th</sup> Clerk for being voted onto the committee, and Kevin Noon, 14.5<sup>th</sup> Musician who accepted the Welfare Officer role.



Harry Hoger, Dafna Humbler Bulimba Bowls Club, Brian Daley

The next reunion, in Canberra in 2018, will focus on our Association leading the Anzac Day March. More details will become available early next year. Thank you to every one for your continuing support; make December a safe and joyous time. Take care.

## Vale – Mick Mace

By Jim Davis Hon Secretary, RAE Association (Vic) Inc.

I am sorry to say that I am the bearer of sad news in that Mick Mace passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Mornington Rehab facility – he was 94 years of age. His family advised me that he slipped away peacefully. I am so pleased that I recently had the opportunity of catching up with Mick but it certainly does not make it any easier to be receiving news like this.

Mick was an Engineer through and through and a wonderful example of a Sapper – he loved the RAE with a passion. A veteran of WW2, Vietnam and Borneo, there is an oval at Balcombe named Mace Oval which has the following explanation:

*“Sergeant Ray (Mick) Mace BEM (M), MM, an instructor at the Balcombe Army Apprentices School, borrowed a D4 bulldozer and literally demolished a hill in order to construct an oval for the apprentices. He carried out this work in his own time, after normal hours.”*

Mick your duty has been done to the highest possible standard, you have trained many young sappers in the skills of your trade so you can now park that machine and enjoy a well-deserved rest. It was a pleasure to have known you Mick – thank you. UBIQUE

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle of Long Tan

### Canberra commemoration

By Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> Radio Mech, Editor  
[moderator@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:moderator@austarmyapprentice.org)

Fifty years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1966, the M113 APCs of 3 Tp, 1 APC Sqn and A Coy, 6 RAR relieved D Coy and helped end the battle of Long Tan, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. Many Apprentices will remember well the ubiquitous tracked vehicles that, in no small way, saved the survivors of D Coy from almost certain and complete destruction.



On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, the battle was commemorated throughout Australia and overseas. The Canberra service included addresses from the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), himself a decorated Vietnam Veteran, and the Prime Minister, The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP.



Starting at 10 am with a flyover by a RAAF Hercules C-130, the service concluded after another flyover by two B-52s, two Douglas DC-3s, two de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou, an UH-1 Iroquois, a Bell H-13 Sioux and a Cessna 0-2 Skymaster.

In his address, the Governor-General said "Vietnam veterans were unique among Australia's returned military personnel, and the day was a chance to pay tribute to all those who served in the conflict."



Also, on Long Tan Day, as part of the Service at the SME Memorial, Frank Poole 10<sup>th</sup> Intake laid a wreath in recognition of the three RAE Apprentices who lost

their lives in the Vietnam conflict. This is a regular event when the AAAA recognises the ultimate sacrifice made by Apprentices.

### Vietnam Calling-----Long Tan 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1966

A poem by Del Smith, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – thanks Del

*No kiss goodbye was ours to share*

*The plane it stood close by*

*The Army always in control*

*So we watched through tear filled eyes.*

*With little hands in each of mine*

*And another not yet born*

*We watched him board in a line of green*

*Our hands then waved goodbye.*

*For those of us always left behind*

*With our loved ones overseas*

*Who did we go to talk to*

*To put our minds at ease.*

*A photo on the mantelpiece*

*Was all we had to share*

*From a loving husband to his wife*

*And for sons to show he cared.*

*We battled on from dawn to dusk*

*As the weeks slipped slowly by*

*Forever watching for the mail*

*Either way we simply cried.*

*The day our eldest son turned five*

*And our baby that month born*

*We heard the news from Vietnam*

*How a battle raged at dawn.*

*For those of us so far away*

*We could only hope and pray*

*That those ones very dear to us*

*Would return to us some day.*

*He did, thank God, come home to us*

*What a sad and happy day*

*Whatever he had seen and heard*

*Is forever stored away.*

*The years since then have slipped on by*

*And our family since has grown*

*For marching now on Anzac Day*

*He is never on his own.*

In her letter to the President, Del wrote that her husband Neville was an 8<sup>th</sup> Intake VM and served in Vietnam from May 66 to May 67. Neville served with HQ 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Task Force, at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province between April 66 and December 71. The first line of the poem is a reference to the fact that Del and Neville didn't kiss goodbye when he left for Vietnam – "He was marched out to a marquee from which he went out the other side to board the plane ... (he is never to leave the house these days without giving me a goodbye kiss)."



<http://www.hq1atf.org>





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## Feature articles

### Eulogy, Robert Joseph Burton 'Shack' House 9<sup>th</sup> F&T, from our Trustee, Jim Hislop, 9<sup>th</sup> F&T

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016, those of Robert House's original Intake who were well enough to travel, gathered at the Seymour Cemetery to lay a small headstone and plaque to commemorate his untimely accidental death on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1958. It had been of great concern that a soldier killed whilst on official leave was not provided with a headstone. After some unsuccessful research, it was decided that his old mates would correct this situation. For a more detailed story, please visit the AAAA Website at <http://austarmyapprentice.org/eulogies/>

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### WO2 Jack Guido (Bull) Abadene Metalwork Wing Instructor, AAS Balcombe, recollections by Harry Cole, 7<sup>th</sup> VM [heritage@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:heritage@austarmyapprentice.org)

There were very few VM or F&T Apprentices at Balcombe in the 1950s who didn't attend the sometimes terrifying instruction periods by WO2 "Bull" Abadene during their trade training. He was a large framed, well-built man, who towered over the smaller Apprentices and he roared like a bull, hence the nickname of "Bull" Abadene.

Surprisingly, most of us thought his surname was Aberdeen and he was of Scottish heritage, but it has recently come to light that he was born to Italian parents in Katanning, WA in 1910. His family name was Abbadini and they all returned to Brescia, Italy in 1920, but Jack returned to WA in 1930 on his own.

Jack served in the AIF in WW2 as an Italian interpreter and was sent to Europe with the rank of Sgt after VP Day to escort those repatriated Italian POWs returning home from various camps in Australia. He was posted to the AAS Balcombe as a WO2 trade instructor in 1950 and remained there until 1959/1960 when he retired from the Army.

It is recorded that he married an Australian girl in Leonora, WA when he was 30 but, some years later when he was posted to AAS Balcombe, she chose to stay in WA. They were later divorced.

Although a good instructor, he was prone to be a bit irrational when something upset him and this meant a flying missile like a ball peen hammer or something equally as damaging to the Apprentice who was not paying attention and, if you were not quick enough to duck, you suffered the consequence of a bad bruise or worse. There was a time when he threw a vice at

someone who, fortunately, was quick enough to move out of the way, and it went completely through the wooden wall leaving a large hole.

Jim Hislop (9<sup>th</sup> Intake F&T) remembered the time when Bull, who was holding a length of 4x2, chased him around the classroom until he managed to escape out the door. Such was his reputation that you were the most attentive Apprentice in his class.

It is said Bull Abadene crewed on a fishing boat for some years at Cowes, Vic after his retirement. A copy of his death certificate indicates he passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1974 at Cowes, aged 64. Being a heavy smoker most of his life, he suffered from carcinoma of the lungs for the last 12 months of his life. He is buried at the Phillip Island cemetery.

It is worth noting that, at Balcombe in the early 1950s, staff were mainly from WW2 areas of action, including senior command staff and the majority of Army instructors. Although discipline was tough, it was also an interesting period to be there.

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### Education doesn't have to stop when you retire

From Barry Teal, 10<sup>th</sup> Clerk, Past President

This is a photograph of my graduation from Deakin University in April this year. As a 10<sup>th</sup> Intake Apprentice, I am in my 77<sup>th</sup> year, but I recently gained a BA with Distinction. I was then invited to do 'Honours', something that would rank in the minds of some as a total waste of time.



I hold a different view and, should you choose to include this in The Apprentice About, it may give to others, as it did for me, a reason for being, and to face down a fairly serious health issue and win.

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### GH Gray's design for a tank and transporter

Readers may remember the May 2016 edition of TAA, in which we featured 22<sup>nd</sup> Radio Mech, Don Gray's father's design for a model self-transporting tank. On Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016, the Canberra Times



covered the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day George Gray, Gough Whitlam's Labor opposition spokesperson on Defence, presented the design to the Holt government's Minister for the Army, Malcolm Fraser.

To read more on this truly amazing story, visit the Canberra Times online:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-life/eccentric-heirloom-prototype-tank-trundles-up-to-its-50th-birthday-20160801-gqifzh.html>

## Reports

### Key-ring auction

Congratulations to all those who managed to submit successful bids for their chosen key-ring numbers. The highest successful bid was \$338 for key-ring no 38. Thank you to all those who participated - the Association's coffers have been significantly boosted. There are plenty of key-rings left, selling for \$20. Ask the Merchandise Officer and he may still be able to source a number of your choosing.

### Membership matters

By Craig Malcolm, 31<sup>st</sup> ET, Membership Secretary, [membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:membership@austarmyapprentice.org)

### Current membership status:

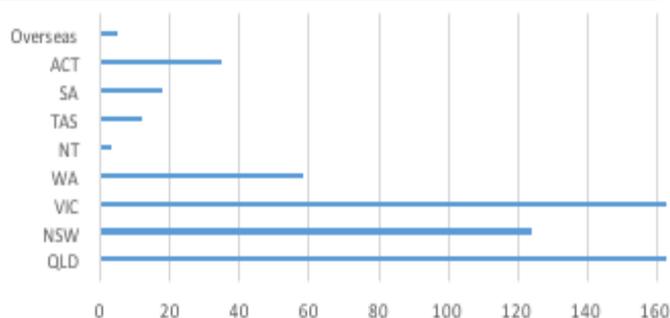
#### Financial members (as at 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016):

• Ordinary Members	271
• Retired Members	309
• Life Members	3
• Associates	7
• <b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>

**By Intake** - this graph shows the spread of the membership - the majority are from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, but there is good growth in the later intakes.



**By state** - membership is evenly distributed throughout the eastern states.



**By corps** - RAEME is by far the most dominant with over 50% of the membership (as at 5<sup>th</sup> October).

RAEME	359	RAASC	3
RAE	118	RAAC	2
RASIGS	51	RAAOC	1
AABC	12	AAS	2

**By trade** - the majority trade of the membership remains Vehicle Mechanic (as at 5<sup>th</sup> October).

Trade	No	Trade	No
Vehicle Mechanic	182	Plumber	19
Fitter & Turner	96	Musician	15
Radio Mechanic	69	Clerk	11
Carpenter & Joiner	47	Bricklayer	8
Electronics Tech	36	Electrician	5
Electrical Fitter	34	Architectural	3
Electrical Mechanic	22	Draughtsman	

**Membership expiry** is 1 Mar and 1 Sep of each year, with members now having the option of joining or renewing for one, three or five-years. The five-year option has been widely received with 75% of new and renewing members taking it up.

**Email addresses** are held for 94% of members. It is important that the Association has up to date addresses to minimise mail out costs. Please let Craig know your email address if he doesn't have it.

### Memorial Sub-committee

By Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Architectural Draughtsman  
[memorial@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:memorial@austarmyapprentice.org)

**Access.** Following my discussions with COL MacLean, Comdt ATLC, and with the President and Membership Secretary, I proposed to the Comdt ATLC that the Association issue members with a membership card. The card would have conditions by which members could access the Memorial without having to provide notice to the Museum. The Museum would not have to arrange escorts and the card would allow access on any day, not just when the Museum was open and an escort available. COL MacLean advised that, although he is sympathetic, he has no discretion in security



access procedures to bases. He did, however, suggest that members could apply for a red uncleared community area only pass and attached an application form. I will apply and, if successful, I will place the details on our Web site.

**The Intake Pathway.** Planning is progressing with the pathway, and ASEME will probably be able to assist with the construction, which will save us some expense and provide ASEME trainees with a practical exercise as part of their course. A detailed report of my site visit with WO1 Johnson is with the recent AGM minutes on our Web site.

As usual, my personal thanks for the assistance and support provided by Greg Mulcahy and Jim Hislop. Without this help, the Memorial would be difficult to manage. Thank you to both of you.

**Remembrance Avenue Plaques at Latchford Barracks.** "Following an inventory of the trees and plaques in the Remembrance Avenue at Latchford, some of the plaques were found to be missing. If any of these have been souvenired and the person/s holding them feels so inclined, their return would be appreciated. Missing are Intake plaques for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> intakes and KIA plaques for Ray Nichols (1<sup>st</sup>), Bruce Henderson (8<sup>th</sup>), Kevin Jones (8<sup>th</sup>), John Hall (11<sup>th</sup>) and Anthony Colohann (13<sup>th</sup>).

### Canberra Region Lunch 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2016 By Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Architectural Draughtsman [memorial@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:memorial@austarmyapprentice.org)

As a one-off change from our usual watering hole at the Golden King Restaurant, this time it was Italian, on the north side rather than the south and on a Thursday rather than a Wednesday. The general consensus of the 21 attending was that the venue overlooking the Belconnen Lake was very attractive but the menu and food was better at the Golden King.

Thanks to Kevin Noon, a family BBQ was arranged for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the RMC Sgts Mess.

### Launch of the Melba Rose Garden at Beleura House and Garden – 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016

The Trustees of the Tallis Foundation recently invited representatives of the Association to Beleura to celebrate the launch of the Dame Nellie Melba Rose by Sarah Gardenia Seymour. The event, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the



birth of Dame Nellie, included a recital by scholars of the Melba Opera Trust, followed by lunch. October 13<sup>th</sup> was the date that Dame Nellie Melba made her debut in Brussels in 1886 **and** announced her retirement in Melbourne in 1924. Other than its close proximity to Balcombe, at Mornington, there is a special connection with the Army Apprentices School. A feature at the centre of the Rose Garden is a flagpole, which came from Balcombe after the School closed. John Sutherland (a gardener, housekeeper and caretaker at Beleura for over 30 years from 1976) and Bruce Martin gifted the flagpole, from the Parade Ground, which came into their possession after the Camp closed.

### Association merchandise

Contact Richard Pike, 21<sup>st</sup> VM, Merchandise Officer  
[merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto: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
- Key-ring (old Assn badge) \$5.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- Key-ring (new Assn badge – ask for your number) \$20.00 +\$1.00 P&H
- AAS flag \$175.00 +\$9.50 P&H
- DVDs:
  - 60<sup>th</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup> Radio Mech, Editor,  
[moderator@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:moderator@austarmyapprentice.org)

### Aug 2016 Newsletter competition – what was wrong with this photo?





Vic Blake, 21<sup>st</sup> VM was first to correctly identify that the photo was reversed. Easy clues were the lanyard on the Apprentice's left sleeve and his beret reversed. Also, the Leopard's spotlight is on the wrong side of the gun. Vic's SPAASSM DVD has been mailed to him. And Jeff Dagan, 43<sup>rd</sup> F&T also received a DVD as the first hard copy Newsletter recipient with the correct answer. Well done to all those who worked it out. There is no SPAASSM competition in this edition.

### Vic's reply

*"Hi Jeff, I just wanted to say that I have been enthralled with the DVD. Thanks so much and well done those who drive the SPAASSM without whom a valuable and significant part of military history would be lost and forgotten forever. Cheers, Vic Blake"*

Thanks Vic. We plan to make the SPAASSM collection available on-line one day but, in the meantime, for others who want a copy of the SPAASSM DVD and can't take the chance that you'll be the winner of this edition's competition, all you have to do is order one from: [merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org).

## Upcoming events

### 22<sup>nd</sup> AAS Intake - 50 Year Reunion - 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Contacts Keith Lowe, 22<sup>nd</sup> F&T**  
[keith\\_lowe@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keith_lowe@optusnet.com.au), mobile 0416 765 921 or  
**Nobby Clarke, 22<sup>nd</sup> VM** [bob@clarkecoaches.com.au](mailto:bob@clarkecoaches.com.au),  
 mobile 0407 941 366

All members and families are invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary enlistment reunion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake. Please contact any other 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Appies you know who might be interested.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Intake Reunion

**By Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Architectural Draughtsman**  
[memorial@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:memorial@austarmyapprentice.org)

To be held over the Anzac Day holiday in NZ next year, this will be an extremely interesting program planned by Brian Eardley-Wilmot. Details will be sent out in the first week in December.

### RAEME 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2017 From RAEME ASSOCIATION – QLD SPANNER NEWS – Edition 3/16, 16<sup>th</sup> October 16

Planning continues for next year's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including Parading of the Prince Phillip Banner at the Brisbane Anzac Day March, followed by a luncheon for all past and current members of RAEME at the Port Office Hotel.

Keep an eye on the RAEME Association Website at: <http://www.raeme.org.au> and RAEME Qld site at: <http://www.qld.raeme.org.au>.

Also, for those interested, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary polo shirts and caps are now available – just visit <http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/shop/clothing>.

### Canberra Region

**By Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Architectural Draughtsman**  
[memorial@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:memorial@austarmyapprentice.org)

### Christmas Lunch

Our usual Christmas Lunch will be held this year on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Golden King Restaurant in Phillip. A banquet with hats, bonbons and prizes will make this an opportunity to celebrate Christmas among friends. Partners are welcome and a notice has been sent out to my mailing list. If you are not in the Canberra region and wish to come, please let me know so I can place you on my email list.

### Book introduction, A Twist in the POGO's Tail

ISBN – 9780994 559104  
**Intro from Wally Rotow, 18<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech; details from Derek Smith, 18<sup>th</sup> Clerk**

*Wally writes: "One of the 18<sup>th</sup> Apprentices, Derek V. Smith (a Clerk), has published a book which he has asked me if you could possibly put it up on the Website and in the next Newsletter. Derek writes about his time at AAS and his multiple tours to Vietnam. I have read the book and it's well written and brings back many memories of life at AAS and in the Army generally. Derek, in the most part, kept a diary so his recollections don't just rely on memory."*

**Derek tells us that:** *"In 1970, I spent a couple of months at HQ AFV and, one day, took a couple of chaps for a bit of a swan up to Bien Hoa. I had access to a US Navy jeep. One of those chaps was Bob Schroeder, who appears in one of the pics in the book - page 113. Bob was a 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Clerk."*

**Derek expands as follows:** *"The 'self-published' book is 132 pages, with 15 chapters, 3 appendixes and 6 maps and has taken him about 5 years to produce. He has pledged in the book to give all profits to the ethnic minority (Montagnard) orphanages that he and his family have been supporting since 2004. The orphanages are located in Kon Tum, Central Highlands, Vietnam ([www.askatvso.com](http://www.askatvso.com)).*

*The foreword was written by LTGEN John Sanderson, AC, (ret'd) former Chief of Army and Governor of WA.*



Much detail for this book has been drawn from diaries that Derek kept, particularly in 1966/67 and 1969/70. There are numerous references in the footnotes, a list of abbreviations in the back, and many photographs.

Covering the period of his early childhood including primary school, high school, cubs, scouts and Army cadets, it then travels into his time in the Army beginning at the Army Apprentices School, Balcombe, Victoria where he trained as an Army Clerk. On graduation, he leads us to his posting as an Army Clerk in a Small Ship Sqn where he served on board a landing ship and a cargo ship from 1964 to 1967. In that time, Derek sailed to New Guinea and Vietnam three times each.

He leaves the Ships and is posted to the RAE Fd Sqns which, in 1969, see him back in Vietnam. He comes home in 1970 and then finds himself back in Vietnam again in 1971, which is where the book finishes.

Derek has attempted to include much of the humour that is typical of the Australian digger, but which is often not included in such stories. The title denotes what he was, a Clerk, but his story or TALE does have many twists and turns, including meeting the enemy, which finds this POGO feeling well out of his depth. It is a good read."

Derek will post the book to anyone wishing to buy one: cost including postage and packaging is \$31.20. Contact Derek directly at: [dvsmith@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dvsmith@ozemail.com.au).

## Website review – Military Shop

Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> Radio Mech  
[moderator@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:moderator@austarmyapprentice.org)



Whilst this is a commercial site, it is worthy of mention because of their support to [Soldier On](#) and other organisations that support current and former serving members and their families through donations to organisations such as Legacy, the RSL and Service charities. Direct support is provided through sales of [Soldier On](#) merchandise and the [AUSTRALIA - IN THE - GREAT WAR 1914-18](#) collections.

[Military Shop](#), located at [65 Kembla St, Fyshwick, ACT](#) has been in operation for over 20 years, designing, manufacturing, importing, distributing and selling, via wholesale and retail, gifts and collectables, field gear, and medal and medal mounting services.

[Military Shop](#), <http://www.militaryshop.com.au> offers wholesale accounts for Not for Profit organisations.

## The Association badge

By Barry Teal, 10<sup>th</sup> Clerk, Past President

As we draw towards the end of our 10<sup>th</sup> year, it is useful to include a short story on why and how the Association badge came into being. Barry recalls, "the design for the current Association badge was formally accepted in 2011, making it over five years old at this year's AGM. That suggests there is potential for posterity of both the Association and its badge and, therefore, it is timely to place on record the thinking that underpinned the badge's design.

As President in 2011, it occurred to me that we were using the much 'fudged' AAS badge which, although full of wonderful memories for us all, didn't really reflect the Association's primary objectives. The AAS badge did not serve the Association well because the membership effectively came from distinctly separate streams, caused by the move from Balcombe to Bonegilla. Our 'mob' fell into two camps, either Balcombe or Bonegilla, and more often by coincidence than continuity could the two connect at the all-important cultural heritage level. The earnest belief that we had to bridge that gap was motivation to design a new badge that would have to turn the Organisation's head away from, but without losing the cohesion of, our separate and respective Schools.

The new badge needed to be copyright capable and, therefore, contain elements that were defined and discrete. I chose to use a facsimile of the drive sprocket of a Centurion tank. The actual sprocket has 16 teeth but the badge geometry only allowed, and indeed only needed, 12 to accommodate the other elements. More compelling at the time was the number of VMs who had died of cancer, which some attributed to excessive exposure to benzene. So, because the main armoured fighting vehicle at the time of their exposure was the 'Cent' Mk3 and 5, it seemed to be connectively appropriate.



Although we may be inclined to attach some meaning to this symbol, the real work for the sprocket was firstly to establish a definitive perimeter pattern and frame on which to build the rest of the badge and secondly to provide space for a unifying message. Obviously, the new badge would also have to carry the AAS badge elements, including the torch of learning and the swords on the cross with the appropriate crown surmounted. The layout was





balanced and provided substantial looking elements of the soldier tradesman under the dominant torch of learning. BUT, ABOVE ALL the background provided a space for an annular ring of green and gold to carry the words 'Balcombe' and 'Bonegilla', thus specifically tying the two Schools together on the one badge. Copyright for the badge was formally gifted to the Association in 2011 – long may they both endure."

## Apprentices “fast facts”

Statistics supplied by Wally Rotow 18<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech

### AAS highest achieving intakes

Many AAS intakes can lay claim to being the highest achievers, based on the numbers who have risen to high ranks. Direct comparison is not fair – early intakes did not have the same opportunities as later intakes, especially during the Vietnam era; however, based on simple raw data, the most WOs came from the 19<sup>th</sup> Intake with 49 (25.7% of the class). Next were the 18<sup>th</sup> (47 – 25.1%) and then the 25<sup>th</sup> (44 – 23.9%). The top five intakes producing WO2s or higher were: 18<sup>th</sup> (74 – 39.5%), 19<sup>th</sup> (73 – 38.4 %), 17<sup>th</sup> (59 – 35.1%), 15<sup>th</sup> (41 – 34.4%) and 25<sup>th</sup> (63 – 34.2%).

Intakes producing the most officers were: 15<sup>th</sup> (21 – 17.6%), 13<sup>th</sup> (21 – 14.6%) and 18<sup>th</sup> (27 – 14.4%). From a large intake (274) the most prolific intake is the 35<sup>th</sup>; 34 have become officers, many of very senior rank: 1 x MAJGEN, 1 x BRIG, 4 x COLs and 7 x LTCOLs. The 9<sup>th</sup> was next highest with 1 x COL and 8 x LTCOLs.

The highest ranking Apprentice to date is LTGEN Ken Gillespie, 23<sup>rd</sup> Bricklayer, past AAAA Patron, and Chief of Army from 2008 until his retirement in 2011. And the Apprentice to reach WO1 in the shortest time (age 27) is Hanna Andrews, a 17<sup>th</sup> Radio Mechanic.

### Overseas operational service

Did you know that at least 2563 Apprentices have participated on overseas operational service, both warlike and non-warlike, with some Apprentices serving on multiple operations? Apprentices have served in 25 theatres from Afghanistan to Western Sahara. This includes the most (1125) who served in Vietnam, three in Kashmir and Mozambique and the least (two) in Ethiopia and Sudan. Another interesting statistic is that 15 Apprentices from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Intakes served in the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). Want more? These and other facts on Staffing, Appointments and Awards and AAS Graduation Parades can be viewed at: <http://austarmyapprentice.org/about/some-facts-and-figures/>.

## AAAA Committee

Congratulations to those Committee members re-elected at the recent AGM. To those newly-elected members, congratulations and welcome. We trust that your time on the Committee will be rewarding and that you can contribute in the way you hoped for.

### Management Sub-committee, comprising:

#### Office Bearers:

**President** - Harry Hoger, 20<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech

**Vice President** - Greg Haggett, 40<sup>th</sup> Plumber & Gasfitter

**Secretary & Memorial Sub-committee Member** -  
Neil Bennett, 13<sup>th</sup> VM

**Treasurer & Merchandise Officer** - Richard Pike, 21<sup>st</sup> VM

#### And:

**Membership Secretary** - Craig Malcolm, 31<sup>st</sup> ET

**Public Officer** - Ray Wilson, 15<sup>th</sup> Plumber

**Welfare Officer & Memorial Sub-committee Member** -  
Kevin Noon, 14.5<sup>th</sup> Musician

**Events Manager** - Otto Aberle, 21<sup>st</sup> VM

**Memorial Sub-committee Chair** -

Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Arch Draughtsman - Life Member

### Other Committee Members:

**Heritage Officer** - Harry Cole, 7<sup>th</sup> VM

**Webmaster** - Ian Morris, 12<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech - Life Member

**Member/Social Media Administrator** -

Joanne Cornelius, 43<sup>rd</sup> VM

**Member, Newsletter Editor & Forum Moderator** -

Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> Radio Mech

**Member & Assistant Secretary** - Keith Lowe, 22<sup>nd</sup> F&T

**Member** - Barry Minster, 20<sup>th</sup> Radio Mech

**Member** - Barry Teal, 10<sup>th</sup> Clerk

**Member** - Peter Thompson, 21<sup>st</sup> VM

### Appointees:

**Honorary Trustee & Memorial Sub-committee Member** -

Jim Hislop, 9<sup>th</sup> F&T

**Chaplains & Memorial Sub-committee Members** -

Rev Alan Kelb, OAM, 25<sup>th</sup> F&T

Rev Craig Potter, 38<sup>th</sup> F&T

**Auditor** - Michael Farrar, 17<sup>th</sup> VM

**Legal Adviser** - **Vacant**

### Regional Representatives:

**NT** - Kevin Forster, 28<sup>th</sup> VM

**NQld** - David Young, 30<sup>th</sup> Fitter Maint

**SQld** - Brian Daley, 14<sup>th</sup> VM - Life Member

**NSW** - Richard Pike, 21<sup>st</sup> VM

**ACT** - Frank Poole, 10<sup>th</sup> Arch Draughtsman - Life Member

**Northern Vic & Memorial Sub-committee Member** -

Jim Hislop, 9<sup>th</sup> F&T

**Southern Vic** - Matt Bouma, 30<sup>th</sup> C&J

**Central Vic** - Mark Ryan, 33<sup>rd</sup> Motor Mech

**SE Vic** - Neil Bennett, 13<sup>th</sup> VM

**Vic Metro** - Lucas McGann, 35<sup>th</sup> Elec Fitter

**SA** - David Miller, 22<sup>nd</sup> Elec Fitter

**Tas** - Gary Byard RFD, 21<sup>st</sup> VM

**WA** - Tom Esze, 36<sup>th</sup> Motor Mech