



Skills creation - the wealth of a Nation



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: Brigadier Andrew Freeman

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62,000 poppies display at the AWM



This small section of the 62,000 handcrafted poppies on the grounds of the AWM illustrates the beauty of the spectacular display open from 5 October to 11 November. Each poppy was created by a volunteer to represent an Australian life lost in the First World War. Bunches of five poppies for \$20 (including postage) or individual poppy brooches for \$9.99 (plus postage) may be ordered online from the Commemorative Shop <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/armistice/com-memorativ-shop>. Proceeds will go to Legacy.

From the President

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

The Association's AGM was recently conducted and all Committee members who were required to renominate for their positions were re-elected. I congratulate them and thank all who attended with their support.

Our Patron, BRIG Andrew Freeman, 40th Elec Fitter, RAEME Head of Corps, was in the UK recently to attend an appointment with the RAEME Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. A photo of this event has been posted on social media.

The Committee's efforts will be directed to having our Website improved with convenient facilities to give better outcomes to all users.

The deterioration of the Balcombe Gates will also be a project to investigate and find solutions to arrest any further degradation.

I thank all who have supported the Association's events during this year. The Committee has been able to navigate all management responsibilities, with their time which they volunteer.

Good health and happiness for the coming festive season to all from this military family.

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ADM entitlement update

The Australian Defence Medal recognises ADF personnel who have efficiently completed either:

- * an initial enlistment period; or
- * four years' service

whichever is the lesser, and all of the relevant service was after 3 Sep 1945.

Some won't be aware that **eligibility includes former members who did not complete the qualifying period**

because they:

- * died in service; or
- * were medically discharged (based on individual circumstances), or
- * left the service due to a Defence workplace policy of the time (eg a woman had to resign on marriage).



And then there'll be three ...

From LTCOL Craig Johnson, Director of Music - Army, 32nd Intake Musician

Craig reports that, "*sadly, we only have six remaining ex-Apprentices left in the full-time AABC. Three of us leave at the end of the year, so that will leave three ... then probably a year or two after that there'll be none left. I really agree with the sentiments of the poem (I wish I could write like that!!!).*"

Extract from Once an Appy

by Steve Muir, 25th Fitter & Turner
published in the February TAA

*'... Regrets for done wrong, ... I doubt there'd be any
For we were young lads, ... and in for our penny
We've lived many lives, and, ... just like those fathers
Have wives, many children ... but, given our 'd'rathers'
We'd live it again, ... and again be that bunch
Of boys who'd be men, ... I have but a hunch!'*

"Would I do it all again if the AAS still existed? You bet I would. From the look of the workforce, I'll be the last ex-appy Director of Music - Army. Life goes on I guess, but my class-mate brothers will be with me to the end."

Catch up with Taz

By Mark (Taz) Otten, 38th Intake Motor Mech
h.m@hotmail.com

G'day, I am a 38th intake motor mechanic, no longer a practising tradesman, and would like to catch up with 8 Pl, C Coy; 4 Base Wksp; and 2 Fd Sup Bn blokes; and 49RQR people I have served with. My nickname was Taz – I don't know why – maybe I came from that little island down south. Would love to hear from you.

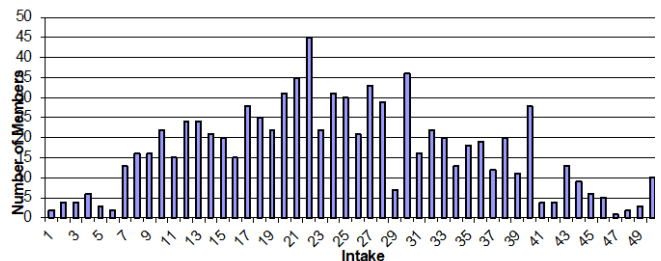
Membership matters

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

As at 1 October 2018, we have 842 financial members, an increase of 202 from this time last year.

Ordinary Memberships	377
Retired Memberships	450
Associate Memberships	12
Life memberships	3
Total	842

Membership by intake



Craig reports that the majority of members are still from the 7th to the 40th Intakes but with good growth from some of the later intakes.

Come on the 29th! (Ed)

Web news

AAAA Webmaster

Those at the last AGM at least will be aware that our long-serving Webmaster, Ian Morris, 12th Intake Radio Mech and Association Life Member has called it a day after nine years in the role.

In Ian's words, when he started, the handover he received consisted of usernames, passwords and good wishes.

Ian oversaw the revamp of the Website through late 2013 to March 2015 and has kept it going well since. Congratulations on your efforts Ian and good luck in your well-earned "retirement".

AAAA Website blog

One of Ian's last tasks was to provide a "blog" section (http://austarmyapprentice.org/?page_id=10831) for the Membership Secretary, Welfare Officer and Newsletter Editor to be able to create entries.

Keep an eye out there for up-to-date news.



With Skill and Fighting – Future Maintenance in the Australian Army

Web article review by Jeff Heron, Editor

Those on Facebook may have seen Edward Gilmour's 11 Aug 18 post about future maintenance costs of military equipment. Too long to copy here, the article by Brendan Robinson on The Cove (www.cove.org.au), 10 Aug 18, is a discussion on the future cost of maintenance of the Australian Army's increasing investment in AFVs through Project Land 400.

Brendan starts with pointing out that maintenance as a combat enabler can be either underdone (no capability) or overdone ("consumed capability"). He cites the sustainment costs associated with the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) and Multi-Role Helicopter (MRH-90) as indicators of the threat of unplanned growth in maintenance costs for the AFVs.

He argues that, amongst the challenges associated with introduction of the AFVs is keeping sustainment costs under control by: more effective use of our RAEME workforce, improved maintenance forecasting tools, exploitation of available maintenance data, organisational changes to reduce actual equipment usage, and increased investment in simulation.

To read Brendan's full article, go to this link <https://www.cove.org.au/adaptation/article-with-skill-and-fighting-an-article-about-future-maintenance-in-the-australian-army/>

Event reports

ACT Region Lunch 19 Sep 2018

ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

Another great day was had by 16 Apprentices and five partners, who enjoyed lunch and conviviality at the Ainslie Football Club. This time, Intakes from the 1st (Geoff Hawker) to the 33rd (Peter Hocking) were represented. Let's see if we can get more partners and later intakes next time.

Upcoming events

Reminder – Event Notification Form

The Association has available an Event Notification Form for groups to register proposed or planned events or activities. This is designed to allow these events to be covered by the Association's insurance. Find the form on the Association Website [here](#).

Shoalhaven region get together, Sunday 11 Nov 2018, 1045 hrs, Ulladulla Ex Servo's

Partners welcome.

Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) 70th Anniversary Events 22–23 November 2018

All serving and ex-serving members of the RAR, families and friends are invited to attend the following events:

- Thursday 22 Nov, 1830 for 1900 - Infantry Dinner, Canberra Institute of Technology Restaurant (1st Floor, Bldg K, Constitution Ave, Reid); dress lounge suit, no medals; cost \$85 per head; open to all Infantry soldiers and officers, serving or retired, ARA or ARES, including Allied Infantry personnel. As bookings and payment were required no later than Friday 9 Nov, readers of this Newsletter will find out too late.
 - Thursday 22 and Friday 23 Nov, 1000-1130 and 1330-1500 timeslots each day - guided tours of the AWM focused on significant events and battles associated with the RAR.
 - Friday 23 Nov, 1530 - 70th Anniversary Parade - on the AWM parade ground; open to the public; featuring the Queen's and Regimental Colours of all RAR Battalions and a Guard from 8/9th Battalion RAR, supported by RAR Pipes and Drums and the RMC Band. His Excellency, the Governor General of Australia will be the Reviewing Officer.
 - Friday 23 Nov, 1700 - Last Post Ceremony - open to the public; remembering the life and sacrifice of CPL Kevin Cooper, 2 RAR, Killed In Action 26 Jul 1953 in the Battle of Samichon in the Korean War.
-

ASEME Latchford Bks RAEME Birthday Friday 23 November 2018

ASEME is holding a RAEME Birthday celebration (a little early) on Friday 23 November 2018. Anyone wishing to attend should contact MAJ Perri Hobbs, SO2 Corps - RAEME (perri.hobbs@defence.gov.au) at least 3 days prior to the event so he can organise base access.

ACT Region Lunch, Wed 12 Dec 2018, 1200 hrs

Contact ACT Region Rep, Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech
news@austarmyapprentice.org

The next Canberra lunch will be on Wed 12 Dec at the Limestone Café at the Ainslie Football Club at 1200. Please let me know if you are attending.



37th Intake 37th reunion 12 January 2019, Latchford and Balcombe
Contact Rod Tyson, 37th Elec Fitter

Visit the 37th Class Army Apprentices (Australia) Facebook page for details and to register. T-shirt and stubby cooler pack orders are being taken, closing at the end of Nov 18. Most indicating that they will attend are planning to do the Latchford to Balcombe trip.

29th Intake 45th reunion, Australia Day 2019, Benalla, Vic Contact: Ian Fawkner, 29th ET

24th Intake 50th reunion 15-17 February 2019, Balcombe/Frankston area
Contacts: John (JC) Goodchap, 24th VM, john_goodchap@yahoo.com or Phil Gibbs, 24th VM, pergware4@bigpond.com

34th Intake reunion Canberra, 15-16 Mar 19
Contacts Bernie Glynn, 34th Motor Mech; Stephan Wagner, 34th ET; or Al Bowie, 34th ET

Phone: 0418 389392; email: bwglynn@gmail.com

18th Metal Trades Reunion, 25-28 Mar 2019
Contact: Wal Brewer, 18th F&T, wal.brewer@gmail.com

I am organising a reunion, to be held in the ACT over the period 25 to 28 Mar 2019. I have contacted all available class-mates and we look like having a good roll up. Apprentices from other intakes in the ACT district who would like to catch up with members of the 18th Metal Trades, contact me for details.

AAAA AGM, Sat 19 October 2019, Canberra.

The next AGM of the Association will be held at the Vibe Hotel Canberra (Airport), 1 Rogan St, Canberra ACT 2609. The Agenda will be on the Website prior to the meeting at www.austarmyapprentice.org

2020 AAAA Reunion, Maroochydore

Early preparations are underway for the next AAAA Reunion in Maroochydore, QLD, spring 2020. Watch this space and the Association Website for details.

2023 AAAA 75th Reunion, Albury

The next major milestone for Apprentices will be the 75th Anniversary of the commencement of the Army Apprenticeships, falling in 2023.

Vale notices summary

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

The Welfare Officer's role includes advising of any passing of Apprentices, so the Association and its members may be aware, and the information can be recorded. For those who do notify either myself or the Webmaster regarding an Apprentice who has passed away, if at all possible, please include the NOK's details and their address.

Also, if you are aware of any of our colleagues who are ill or about to undergo surgery, please let me know so I can post information on Association Facebook sites.

Intake & trade	Name	Passed away
5 th Plumber	Brian John Norman	6 Jun 2000
5 th Welder	Brian William Rettig	13 Aug 1976
5 th VM	Gordon William Smith	3 Apr 2007
5 th VM	Eric John Stoll	3 Jul 1989
8 th VM	Arthur George Craig	4 Jan 2018
10 th VM	Geoffrey Norman Arnold	15 Jun 2018
12 th C&J	Robert William Reed	2014
17 th Blacksmith	James Victor Reed	30 Aug 2014
17 th C&J	John Alfred Wheatley	27 Aug 2004
17 th VM	Brian Edward Fletcher	19 Oct 1989
17 th VM DNG	Gavin John Henderson	13 Jul 2012
17 th Clerk DNG	Darryl William Hennessey	20 May 1998
17 th Radio Mech	Ronald John Laurence	Unknown
17 th VM DNG	Ronald Charles Nash	17 Feb 2004
19 th VM	Roger Glen Parsons	10 Aug 2014
19 th Clerk DNG	Norman Phillip Leslie Carrington	11 Jan 2005
19 th Musn DNG	Ian Thomas McKenna	14 Jul 2012
19 th Elec Fitter	John Archibald Owens	19 Apr 1995
19 th VM DNG	Robert James Plant	17 Aug 2018
19 th Clerk DNG	John Frederick Truan	12 Oct 2015
21 st /22 nd Plumber/Musn	Dallas Clive Monsuere	18 Feb 2018
23 rd Elec Mech	Gregory John Clough	19 Aug 2018
23 rd VM	Michael John Peter Dilger	31 Jul 2018
24 th Radio Mech	Kenneth Charles Ladhams	5 May 2017
24 th VM	Peter Stanley Mayo	20 Apr 2013
27 th C&J	Glenn Archie Holden	25 Dec 2017
27 th ET DNG	Christopher John Fowler	7 May 1973
28 th ET	Kurt Andersen	19 Jul 2018
30 th Fitter Maint	Peter John Sherry	30 Apr 2018
31 st F&T	Robert Alan Kirby	Oct 2018
33 rd VM	Geoffrey Alwyn Boyle	Unknown
39 th C&J	Paul James Anning	25 May 2000
46 th Motor Mech	Sean David Harman	30 Mar 2018
46 th Motor Mech	Todd Andrew Redgewell	20 Feb 2015

Vale notices are posted on the Association Website (<http://austarmyapprentice.org/vale/>) and social media sites.

Wally Rotow (18th Intake Radio Mech) continues to investigate through various media sources, finding those names of Apprentices who he's uncovered that have not been recorded as passing away before but,



with his good work, these names have now been placed on our Website Vale pages.

MiVAC Mine Victims And Clearance

In last August's TAA, we included 15th Intake F&T Peter Perry's question, "Would we be interested in an article for inclusion in the newsletter." Of course, the answer was yes, and Peter's article is presented on page 8.

SPAASSM competition

August 2018 result



Congratulations Rob Minato, 31st ET, who identified the AN/PRC-64. Sorry you non-boffins – perhaps you'll do better next time, but there is no competition for this issue.

Association merchandise

From Phil Gibbs, 24th VM, Merchandise Officer
merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org

We now hold sufficient quantities of all merchandise to meet our ongoing needs for the present and have been able to satisfy outstanding orders from the 70th Reunion. We have 88 photo cards from the Reunion and 750 key rings in stock with minimal interest shown in these two items since their initial offering. As all costs associated with the items have been covered, the committee will consider a number of options in an effort to help reduce our present stock holdings.

Order form and contact details are on the Association Website <http://austarmyapprentice.org/merchandise/>

Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB)

From Andrew (Andy) Sears, 30th F&T, asears@iinet.net.au

Hello AAAA, Having been an Apprentice who served at RCB, I read with interest in the latest Apprentice About (August 2018), an article by Don Gray (22nd RM).

Don's article suggested 15 Apprentices served at RCB from 1970 – 1989, which seemed to be on the low side. I have contributed to a couple of posts on Facebook regarding RCB, but don't know if Don would have seen them, as he doesn't seem to have a Facebook account.

My detachment to RCB was with 3RAR, at the time based at Woodside, SA. Below are names of those associated with 3RAR RCB detachments 1977 – 1980: 1977 – Robyn Badenoch (27th VM); 1979 – Andy Sears (30th F&T) and John Goode (29th VM); RAE attachments from Sydney – Ashley Cootes (30th C&J) and Philip Dunn (30th EM); and 1980 – Jeffrey Simpson (30th F&T) and Trevor Tobias (30th VM)

Please forward this to Don Gray, as I thought this information would be of interest to him. Many thanks

Principal Matthew Dodd, Balcombe Grammar School

From Peter Thompson, 21st VM,
heritage@austarmyapprentice.org

Presented to Principal Matthew Dodd, Balcombe Grammar School Sep 2018

Mr Matthew Dodd, founding Head and Principal of Balcombe Grammar School, is to vacate the position after 11 years of dedicated service.

The school was founded in January 2007 to provide an affordable Christian school striving for excellence in education, for the families of the Mornington Peninsula and is located on the top side of Mace Oval at the old Army Apprentices School site. It is a co-educational school catering for students to Year 12, having been brought into existence through the efforts of an interim Board governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a Council. Members of these two bodies include representatives from churches, parents, and other individuals.

Matthew started out with about 28 students and a fellow teacher busying it to Cranbourne school as a temporary start until the first class room was constructed at the Balcombe site. The school now has a student population of 820 in very modern facilities that make the old Apprentices School seem a little primitive. Matthew tells us that he did in fact work out of an old Balcombe School hut in the early stages of development, so he has some of an appreciation of Army Apprentices School days.

There have been many years of involvement between the School and our Association, and the School has a keen interest in the military history of the area, fostered in a large way by Matthew's leadership.

On Thursday, 11 October 2018, there was a service of celebration for Matthew for the many years he has contributed to the very successful school that Balcombe Grammar is today. There was a very large



attendance at the event including School Council, Peninsula Council, parents, and students.



Neil Bennett, Matthew Dodd, Richard Pike and Peter Thompson

An invitation was extended to our Association to attend the farewell events: Neil Bennett, Richard Pike, and Peter Thompson represented the Association. Neil presented a Certificate of Appreciation which reads:

"This Association gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support you have extended to us for the 2013 Back to Balcombe Celebration and continuing to the present day. Your leadership in the education field and patriotism to our military history is outstanding."

Matthew is held in very high esteem by all, especially his students, which reflects the man as a leader, teacher, and mentor.

Mr Ross Patterson will take over as Principal from the start of 2019.

Newsletter submissions

Submissions for the Newsletter are always welcome. Please send them to news@austarmyapprentice.org. Submissions for February 19 close on 16 January 2019.

Replacement of damaged AAS memorial plaque

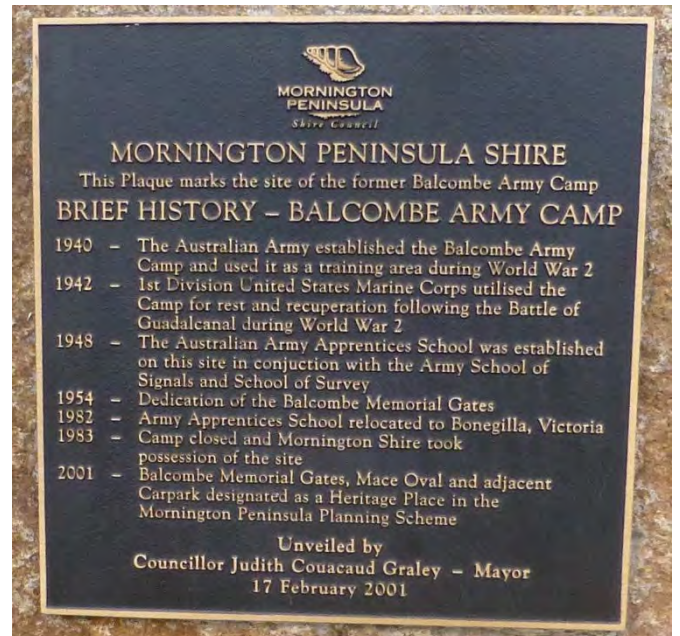
From Peter Thompson, 21st VM,
heritage@austarmyapprentice.org

On 17 February 2001, a dedication service was held to unveil two plaques to commemorate the past history of the Balcombe Army Camp. The 1st Division of the US Marine Corps and the Army Apprentices School were a big part of that history.

There were over 400 people at the unveiling, along with representatives of the former US Marine Corps Association and Army Apprentices School.

One of the plaques, on a rock outside the Gates (below), gives a brief history of the Balcombe Army

Camp and the other plaque commemorated the existence of the Army Apprentices School.



The second plaque (wording below) was originally affixed to the stone at the entrance to Mace Oval but was removed prior to the 2013 Back to Balcombe commemoration due to damage making it illegible.



After some negotiations between the Mornington Peninsula Council and our Association, it was decided that we would supply a replacement plaque, and the Council would provide a mounting stone and affix the plaque to it. That project has now been completed. The Memorial Plaque is now located just inside the Memorial Gates at the entrance to Mace Oval.

The original plaque was of brass construction and did not weather well, so the replacement of cast construction will be legible for many decades to come.



Balcombe Grammar pocket knife

From Peter Thompson, 21st VM,
heritage@austarmyapprentice.org

Warrick Wynne, Deputy Head of Secondary at Balcombe Grammar School, contacted our Association to say that two Grade 6 students had found an old pocket knife. It has written on its side K. WHEELER'S AMOCO S/STN. TOORAK RD. & LITHGOW ST. HARTWELL. PH. 29 8540, and was probably a promotional item for the business.



The students believe it may be connected with the history of the Army Apprentices on this site.

Their teacher, Jennifer Tod, said the students who found the knife were keen to present their treasure to our Association for safe keeping and sharing amongst the Apprentices. It was turned into a student project and the two students involved presented it to Neil Bennett, one of our local members, representing our Association. It was followed up to show that the Association is keen to encourage and maintain student involvement in Balcombe history.

If anyone is missing this knife, Neil Bennett has it in his safe keeping and assures us that he will pass it on to its rightful owner. *(Finger prints will be taken! Ed)*

AAAA Committee

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/about/committee/>

At the AGM last month, a couple of changes occurred, so please have a good look at the list and consider volunteering to fill any of the **vacant positions, particularly the Events Manager and Webmaster, as well as a number of Regional Reps.**

Anyone interested in nominating should find the form on the Website, fill it in, and send it to the Secretary.
<http://austarmyapprentice.org/wp-content/uploads/AAAA-Committee-Nomination-Form-20-Nov-17.pdf>

Disclaimer

Information, views and opinions expressed in "The Apprentice About" originate from many different sources and contributors throughout our membership. Please note that content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of the AAAA.

Management Sub-committee:

Office Bearers:

President - Harry Hoger, 20th Radio Mech
Vice President - Greg Haggett, 40th Plumber & Gasfitter
Secretary - Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T
Treasurer - Richard Pike, 21st VM

Plus:

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 - **Vacant**

Other Committee Members:

Heritage Officer, Memorial Sub-committee Chair - Peter Thompson, 21st VM
Webmaster - **Vacant**
Member - Bob Clarke, 22nd VM
Member, Social Media Administrator - Joanne Cornelius, 43rd VM
Member, Merchandise Officer - Phillip Gibbs, 24th VM
Member, Newsletter Editor - Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech - **Life Member**
Member - **Vacant**
Member - Barry Minster, OAM, 20th Radio Mech

Appointees:

Honorary Trustee, Memorial Sub-committee Member - Jim Hislop, 9th F&T
Chaplain, Memorial Sub-committee Member - Rev Alan Kelb, OAM, 25th F&T
Auditor - Gary Lancaster, 22nd F&T – **welcome Gary**
Legal Adviser - **Vacant**

Regional Representatives:

NT - Kevin Forster, 28th VM
NQld - **Vacant**
SEQld - Brian Daley, 14th VM - **Life Member, Memorial Sub-committee Member**
NSW - Richard Pike, 21st VM, **Treasurer**
ACT - Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mech - **Life Member, Member, Newsletter Editor**
N Vic - **Vacant**
Central Vic - **Vacant**
Southern Vic - **Vacant**
SE Vic - **Vacant**
Vic Metro – Craig Malcolm, 31st ET
SA - **Vacant**
Tas - **Vacant**
WA - Bob Coventry, 22nd Radio Mech



Ba Tang Water Supply Project – 11 Villages, Khe Sanh, Vietnam

From Peter R Perry (15th F&T), MiVAC Board Member & Vietnam Project Coordinator, PO Box 538, Dunsborough 6281, WA, Tel: +61 (0) 418 959 001, pp646193@bigpond.net.au



MiVAC is a voluntary organisation, which provides poor and war-affected communities with basic amenities including water supply and toilet facilities, as well as UXO clearance. MiVAC is 100% privately funded by donations and sponsors. We are currently seeking financial support for the Ba Tang Community 11 Villages Water Supply Project in Vietnam.



(L-R) Ms Phuong, Peter Perry, Ivan Perry & Ken Arnold

MiVAC is also a 100% volunteer Australian Non-Government Organisation (NGO), delivering more than 96% of donations to site. Initially started by military veterans from the Vietnam conflict, MiVAC has, in recent years, responded to Laos village requests to work with them to provide clean running water and toilet facilities. MiVAC has also worked with communities living amongst dangerous war remnants in Asian countries including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. We have again turned our attention to one of the poorest and most devastated parts of Vietnam where we have been advised that no other NGO is prepared to operate.

The initial visit was carried out by three former Sappers: Peter Perry (15th F&T), Ken Arnold (18th Plumber), both Vietnam Veterans, and Ivan Perry, ex 23 Const Sqn.

Situation

We are now only some weeks away from having the final administrative requirements in place.

MiVAC still has a few war veterans who served in Vietnam during 1960s/70s who, together with our other members, share an abiding desire to help provide the most basic of life's necessities to the Vietnamese people as they pursue recovery from the effects of the Vietnam War.

MiVAC has the full backing of Quang Tri Department of Foreign Affairs (QT DOFA), who are presently processing the last of the paperwork required to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

There are some 120,000 people who reside in the affected area, and who require the type of assistance that we can deliver. MiVAC, at best, can only do a small amount of the requirement. Our proposal will also provide a model which others may be persuaded to follow.



The Problem

Tens of thousands of ‘minority’ (previously known as Montagnards) people live, many below the poverty line, in remote, mountainous regions of Vietnam, most without an adequate water supply or toilet facilities. This area is between Khe Sanh and the Laos border in Quang Tri Province. High-explosive bombs, aerielly-delivered mines, artillery, mortar bombs, and the human-deforming crop- and jungle-destroying defoliant (Agent Orange) proliferate the area.

Recently, MiVAC discovered that their current water drawing points have been further contaminated by chemicals and fertilizer run-off from cropping activities. According to the farmers, this product has caused their latest water drawing point pollution.



A Most Economical Solution

MiVAC carried out similar projects in Laos, where we perfected a system gravity feeding water from new, higher perennial water sources, by pipes to central storage tanks, then delivered again by gravity to distribution points throughout the villages. MiVAC provides the design, materials, supervision, and total financial control. The villagers provide volunteer labour and some materials such as timber. On completion, following advice and training, the village takes ownership and maintenance responsibilities. Health and use of sanitary facilities will need to be emphasised. This is how we did it in Laos:



Upstream weir



Settlement tanks



Main tank



Distribution point



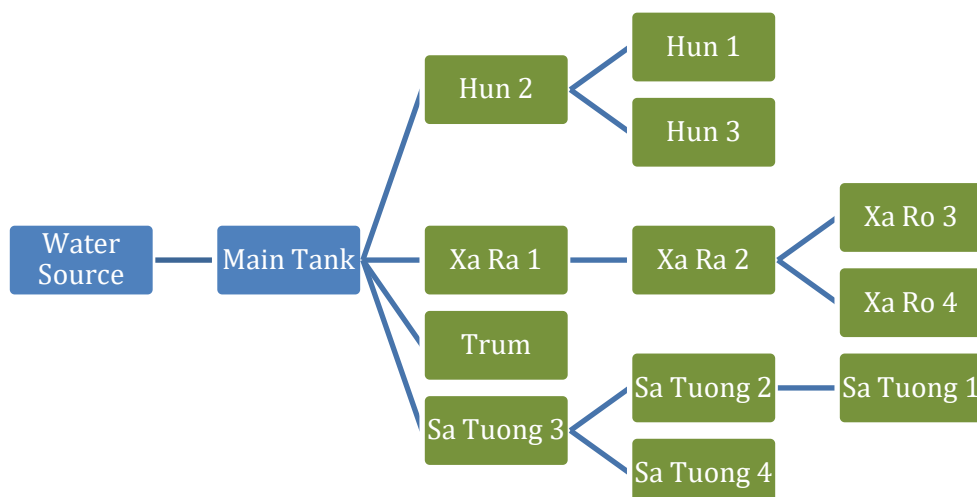
School toilets

Project Selection

Following two trips to the Khe Sanh area, which was selected by Vietnamese volunteers as the area most urgently requiring help, MiVAC has, in conjunction with QT DOFA, agreed to begin applying our skills by assisting the people of the Ba Tang Commune. Whilst there are remnants of old water supply systems, very little remains viable. The total project will bring clean water and toilets to some 780 homes and 10 schools.

Given the size and complexity of the project, it has been broken down into three phases, each linked to a new clean water source. Phase 1, the present proposal, is the Khe Plo Water System, divided into six sections as shown below:

KHE PLO WATER SYSTEM

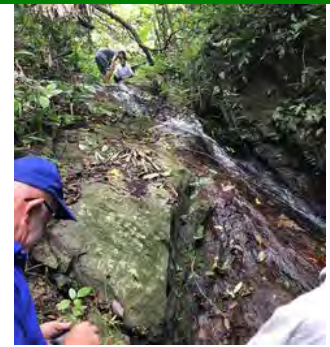




Project Phases

Estimate US \$

1. Pipe from new water source to main supply tank	19,500
2. Connect main tank to Sa Tuong 1, 2, 3 and 4	29,100
3. Connect main tank to Trum	17,400
4. Connect main tank to Xa Ro 1, 2, 3 and 4	33,100
5. Connect main tank to Hun 1, 2 and 3	30,000
6. Provide toilet kits to 231 homes and 4 schools	<u>55,900</u>
Total Estimate for construction	<u>185,000</u>



A new water source

The cost to deploy and operate an office/residence for the MiVAC Operations Manager is US\$13,200 pa, with an additional US\$24,000 pa to hire a local Assistance Manager and two supervisors.

Notes: a) There is no set priority except that Section 1 must be completed first. b) QT DOFA to carry out UXO clearance to all areas to be excavated, at their cost. c) The estimated expenditure for year 1 is US\$125,000. d) Detailed design and costings are available upon request.

Historical Issues

Some 50 years ago, death rained from the skies along the borders of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam War (1962-73). The area selected is adjacent to the 17th Parallel (DMZ). Quang Tri was the most heavily bombed Province with some 83% affected.

It is only 24 years since the economic embargo was lifted on Vietnam, which then allowed their first opportunity to begin the process of mending a broken country. The process of restoration and prosperity is not, however, likely to bring respite to the remote villages strewn along this border area for a long time. It should also be noted that deformities caused by the spraying of Agent Orange are now passing through to the fourth generation. Whilst we are not able to reduce the effects of Agent Orange, we can still achieve much in reducing the child mortality rate.



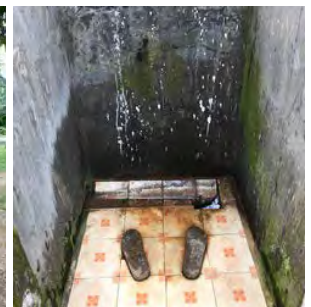
Local dwelling



Meeting the villagers, accompanied by Ba Tang officials



Ken enchanting the kindly kids



The girls' school toilet, for some 400+



Did I see you in 1968?



Sappernuity



Ba Tang Project area

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