



The Apprentice About

Newsletter for the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc

Volume 1, Issue 6

SEP 2012

From the President

Hello and I hope you are all as well as you can be. Much has happened since my last correspondence. The Balcombe Commemoration Celebrations have moved from idle into top gear now and the Registration process is underway. A Facebook group is in existence, originally set up by Barry Minster (20th RM) and currently has 42 members. Our web site is being reviewed and will have a new look soon.

The Association's AGM is set down for 12 noon 27th October at the Caulfield RSL in Melbourne and will be followed by a 'Melbourne' based get together – while this get together will be titled the Melbourne based Appy function, it is of course open to all Apprentices and their partners/families.

BALCOMBE COMMEMORATION

Frank Maloney (13TH VM) our Events Manager in partnership with Peter Muir (25th MV) have been working overtime organising the weekend of functions and ceremonies. There is an extensive program of events on our web site along with the Registration forms – if you are receiving this by mail and do not have internet access and want to register for attendance please call me on 0433 365 111 and I will ensure that you receive the forms for you to register.

While the above mentioned Appy's have been doing a mountain of work, and I am not overstating this, I want to take the opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to the project in the past, namely Geoff Martin (2nd), Jack Westernhagen (3rd) and Barry Teal (10th).

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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



Membership Matters

The latest lot of membership renewals have been sent out this month, well done to those who have renewed their membership. If you haven't renewed as yet, please do so ASAP, and don't forget to return the paperwork.

If you are unsure as to your membership status, please call or send me an e-mail.

There also appears to be some confusion as a member are being an "Ordinary" or a "Retired" member so I have shown an extract from our constitution below:

Ordinary Member: Any person who enlisted into the Australian Army, with the rank of Apprentice and was allocated a class intake number, and attended the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe or Bonegilla or the Army College of TAFE at Bonegilla.

Retired Member: Any person satisfying the above requirement for member who is now no longer working full time or is drawing a DVA, Age or TPI pension. Special cases shall be considered by the Vice-president.

Craig Malcolm (31st ET)

Membership Secretary

Membership@austarmyapprentice.org

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It is with some pride that I tell you the kindred Associations involved with this project and the Corps that had Schools at Balcombe are more than happy to have our new streamlined outfit organising the weekend of events. I believe they have confidence that the job will be completed successfully because the Apprentice Association has the runs on the board with regard to organising major functions.

It is more than likely that this will be the last official event that marks the existence of the Army Apprentice School at Balcombe so please make the effort and get there for weekend or at least part of it.

FACEBOOK

A Facebook group has been set up by Barry Minster to use as a means of Apprentices communicating with each other. After a short conversation with Barry before he had to rush off to see his Hawks down the Crows at the MCG, he did indicate to me that he would like to see all Apprentices sign up and be registered on the page. While I am not familiar with the workings of Facebook I am sure there are plenty of you who are. In particular the later intakes - post 35th – there would be a large percentage of these men and women who use it and I want to get the message out to these guys about the Association. There are a couple of intake Facebook groups active now and I would like to have them somehow linked together and increase the Apprentice network further.

AGM

The notice for the AGM is in this newsletter and on our website. At the 2011 AGM attended by in excess of 140 members, we were unable to elect a Vice President, and we still have this position vacant. For all the good work your Committee does and is involved in this is not a good look for the Association and its 600 odd members.

There are a number of positions that become vacant and we are calling for nominations this and I would like them all filled. If you are considering taking on a role with the Committee, you will need to have a little spare time on your hands throughout the course of the term of the position, you will need to be able to attend meetings or contribute by telephone and electronically (email), but most of all you will want to contribute towards improving the Association and keeping the bonds that set us apart from other groups.

REGIONAL GET TOGETHERS

This year we have seen the inaugural West Australian Apprentice get together and the annual S.E.Qld Apprentice reunion. My sincere thanks and congratulations go to Norm Wells (14th) and Brian Cooper (9th) for organising the W.A based guys and their families and to Brian Daly (14th) for again putting the Qld reunion together.

I was able to attend the W.A get together and managed to catch up with a couple of my 35th mates, Phil Murphy and Dave Woad and came away feeling a little worse for wear on the return plane trip. We are fortunate as an Association to have the likes of Norm and Brian involved in the West and I am sure that in or around May next year there will be another 'pleasant

Saturday afternoon'. Brian Daly has been putting together the Qld reunion for many years and I am reliably informed Brian runs a very good show. The timing is always the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, so keep it in mind and if you can get there in the future, please do.

We are still looking for Regional Reps for Sydney and South Australia. If you are interested please contact either myself or our Secretary Neil Bennett. Our email addresses are president@austarmyapprentice.org and secretary@austarmyapprentice.org These positions are not very onerous, however they are vital for promotion of the Association.

I'd like to wish all our members and Apprentices everywhere all the best and if you can get to our AGM in Melbourne I will see you there.

Feel free to contact me by phone 0433 365 111 or by email if you have anything you feel will improve the Association or any of the above.

Lucas

Lucas McGann - President

president@austarmyapprentice.org

Notice of AGM

The **2012 Annual General Meeting** of the Australian Army Apprentices Association Inc. will be held in Melbourne **at 12noon on Saturday 27th October 2012 at the Caulfield RSL in Melbourne.** All members are invited to attend and partners would be welcome.

The AGM documents will be made available at the Association website www.austarmyapprentice.org within the next few days or so:

Please note that any additional agenda items should be forwarded to the Secretary ASAP as an email attachment and be in the form of a seconded motion with a brief discussion of the motion.

Positions Vacant:

The following positions on the committee will be declared vacant:

- (1) the Vice President,
- (2) the Treasurer,
- (3) the Membership Secretary,
- (4) the Public Officer,
- (5) three (3) of the Ordinary Committee Members.

Contact:

Neil Bennett

secretary@austarmyapprentice.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - REUNIONS

Do you have a reunion or event that you would like to announce to the membership?. If so, please let us know.

Balcombe Barracks Commemoration 3 -5 May 2013

The Australian Army Apprentices' Association (AAAA) is hosting an event in Mornington, VICTORIA over the weekend 3rd to 5th May 2013.

The AAAA has been in consultation with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for some years with a view to upgrading and adding items to enhance the military historical significance of Balcombe as a featured component of the Shire heritage plan. AAAA Events has always endeavoured to conduct an activity of significance that calls for the active participation of the membership at around two yearly intervals.

It seemed fairly straight forward to combine the two things and in that way we should get a good turnout for the Commemoration and also for the reunion that we have put together. The two complement each other very nicely, and should make for a great weekend in Mornington.

2013 also represents the 70th anniversary of the 1st Div USMC being repatriated to Balcombe after their successful Guadalcanal campaign. The 4th of May 2013 marks the 71st anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Australian Army Apprentices took part in the annual celebration of this battle for many years by being the Army component in the allied forces contingent that marched through the City of Melbourne.

It was decided that all of this activity would attract many "Balcombe Old Boys and Girls" who would wish to be a part of the proceedings. So AAAA Events have come up with a number of activities to make this a most memorable few days, and probably the last time that Balcombe, Mornington and the district as a whole will appear on our radar.

This gathering is inclusive of all those units and personnel that served in Balcombe Barracks i.e., Apprentices, Signals, Survey, Music, US Marines, WRAAC and including staff.

The Registration Form for this event can be downloaded from www.austarmyapprentice.org
Frank Maloney
AAAA Events Manager

38th Intake 30th Anniversary - Australia Day weekend 2013

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE 38th CLASS ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL 1983 - 2013

DATE: Australia day weekend 2013

Friday 25th Welcome drinks and nibbles Saturday 26th Dinner (both 1900-late)

VENUE: SS&A Club, Olive Street, Albury NSW

COST: \$50 per head (Drinks will be at bar prices)

There will be an unveiling of a plaque at the Army Apprentices Memorial at South Bandiana on Saturday followed by a BBQ lunch and a visit to the Army Museum. The reunion is open to 38th Class members, their families, ex-members of staff any other personnel who were associated with the class to renew old friendships. If you know of any 38th Class members who may not be aware of the reunion taking place could you 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 THE ADDRESS BELOW by 12 December 2012.

Ian McDonald

PO Box 1643

Wodonga Vic 3689

MOBILE 041 603 7735 Email: reunion38th@optusnet.com.au

http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/forum_phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=630



RECENT APPRENTICE GATHERING IN PERTH

Way out in Western Australia on Saturday 26th May 2012 an ex apprentice afternoon gathering was conducted in the SAS Association 'House" at Campbell Barracks Swanbourne. With no starting contact list, local members Brian Cooper 9th and Norm Wells 14th beat the drum and spread the word for the planned family day which resulted in an attendance of over seventy five people of which 43 registered as past Army Apprentices ranging from the 3rd to the 48th intakes.

A further 20 odd "Apprenti" offered sincere apologies for their inability to attend due to sickness or prior commitment conflict.

The AAAA President Lucas McCann travelled from Melbourne to attend and address the gathering with the aim of recruiting stronger active association membership from Western Australia. The wonderful facility of the SAS House venue was a pleasure to enjoy with the walls adorned with interesting SAS historical memorabilia covering 55years of Australian SAS activities.

Attendees enjoyed the facility, the bar service and the arranged extensive catering provided by the SAS Association Committee who were thanked for their support to our function. The day was a great catch up with many old stories of military youth coming to mind. It was resolved that a repeat performance should be conducted maybe on an annual basis and all should go away and generate attendance numbers for any future gatherings.

Norm Wells (14th)
North Perth

The Australian Army Apprentices Memorial

With the construction of the memorial wall the memorial has now progressed another step towards its final design. The wall, constructed in the same brick and course as the Balcombe and Bonegilla wing walls, is edged in black glazed bricks with a black glazed cross in the centre. This wall will be reserved for plaques and memorabilia of those Apprentices lost in action. The wall also serves to better show the detail of the gates that was previously lost against the dark vegetation behind the memorial.

We still have to have fabricated and fixed, as funding becomes available, the wording "LEST WE FORGET" across the top of the wall and negotiate to have the KIA plaques from the Latchford avenue of intake trees transferred to the memorial.

RAEME have graciously passed to us a boulder with a brass plaque with Apprentice KIA that was behind their memorial; thanks to Jim Hislop, that has now has been placed at the front of the Memorial.

Peter McWhinney, the son of 10th Blacksmith Jock, has very generously donated the money to buy and install a reflection seat. We have laid the slab for the seat and it should be in place very shortly.

Future work includes the writing of a brochure explaining the significance of the various elements of the memorial and promoting the availability of inscribed pavers, bronze plaques and remembrance plaques. Details of these and application forms can be found on the Memorial page of the Apprentice web site. If you wish to have a Remembrance Plaque placed on the Balcombe or Bonegilla wall, I suggest you complete an Application Form, explain your wishes to your family and keep the form with your will.

Frank

Frank Poole LtCol(R) RAE(tn)
Chair, Memorial Sub-committee



AAS - SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Trades

9,296 young men and women enlisted into the Australian Army to service as Army Apprentices. There were 1783 non-graduates, which include 25 apprentices who died whilst at AAS. Of these, 446 non-graduates went on to service in the Regular Army. There were 7,513 graduates into the following trades:

Architectural Draughtsman – 12	Electrical Fitter – 335	Plumber – 287
Blacksmith – 61	Electrical Mechanic – 365	Radio Mechanic/Electronic Tradesman – 1584
Bricklayer – 52	Electrician – 88	Vehicle Mechanic – 2224
Carpenter and Joiner – 781	Fitter and Turner – 1213	Welder – 8
Clerk – 118	Musician – 385	

Female Apprentices

There were 115 female Army Apprentices, of whom 49 did not graduate. For those who did graduate, their trades were:

Electronics – 32	Fitter and Turner – 5
Vehicle Mechanic – 28	Carpentry – 1

One is now a Major, two are Captains and three have reached WO2.

Operational Service

Many Army Apprentices have participated on overseas operational service, both warlike and nonwarlike. Some Apprentices have been on multiple operations. The number of individual Apprentices who have partaken in all these operations totals 2561:

Afghanistan – 288	Balkans – 8	Cambodia – 138
Bougainville – 255	Rhodesia – 5	Namibia – 131
Borneo – 198	Rwanda – 40	Vietnam – 1125 (includes 71 non-graduates)
Sinai – 29	Solomon Islands – 94	Western Sahara – 12
Iraq – 227	Somalia – 43	Ethiopia – 2
Korea – 34	Thai/Malay Border – 39	Mozambique – 3
Malaya – 271	Timor – 678	Sudan – 2
Middle East – 18	Pakistan – 7	

Note: These figures include 145 non-graduates who partook in 205 operations.

Officers

There have been 762 Apprentices that have reached officer rank. This includes 36 non-graduates. There have also been six padres in that total.

There have also been 711 WO1s and 765 WO2s. In the higher ranks there have been:

1 x Lieutenant General	5 x Brigadiers
21 x Colonels	109 x Lieutenant Colonels

As of today, only 591 Apprentices remain in uniform – 351 in the ARA and 240 in the ARES.

Statistics from

*Wally Rotow 18th
Central Army Records Office
As at 23 May 2012*



AAAA COMMITTEE

POSITION	Appointment	POSITION	Appointment
Patron	Brigadier David Luhrs, CSC, Commandant of RMC	Membership Secretary	Craig Malcolm
President	Lucas McGann	Heritage Officer	Jim Hislop
Vice President	Vacant	Chair – memorial subcommittee	Frank Pool
Secretary	Neil Bennett	Member	Gary Byard
Treasurer	Owen Reynolds	Member	Glen Jones
Welfare Officer	Russell Evans	Member	Jeff Heron
Public Officer	Ray Wilson	Member	Bill Merton
Events Manager	Frank Maloney	Member	Jock McWhinney
Webmaster	Ian Morris	Member	Vacant

Looking for:

Are you trying to track down old Appy mates, but don't see their name on our membership list. If you are looking for someone, let the membership secretary (membership@austarmyapprentice.org) know and their name and intake will be listed here.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the names listed, please get them to contact the Membership Secretary, and he will put them in contact with those seeking them.

members are currently looking for:

Kenneth James YOUNG (11th),
Edward Michael Harold HESLIN (12th),
Brian David GLYDE (12th),
Eric Harold JOHNSON (13th),
John Thomas Leslie JONES (15th)
Terrance James NAYLOR (15th).
Barry Mason 7 th (C&J)