



## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE 12 APRIL 2008**

1. Greetings to all, this will be a most important Update and I ask all of you who directly receive this by email to pass to all Apprentices that you maintain contact with. The involvement of as many as possible in the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and Memorial dedication in October is essential for the success of these most important occasions.
2. The minutes of the last committee Meeting can be found on our website [austarmyapprentice.org.au](http://austarmyapprentice.org.au). You will also find a page dedicated to giving you the latest of the Anniversary and dedication.
3. Membership.
  - 3.1. Stephan, Ray and Jeff have consolidated our membership records and you can now find an Association membership list on the web page. If your name is not there we would appreciate its inclusion simply by filling in a Membership Application form (also on the web page) and sending it in to the Treasurer.
  - 3.2. Membership renewal. All members will shortly be receiving details of how to pay renewals. Those who have email will get it electronically and those not connected by will need to access the web page where details will also be posted. Anyone who has not renewed in two months will be contacted by snail mail.
4. Insurance. We are negotiating public liability insurance for the Association which we are hoping will be able to extend to reunions and social gatherings provided they are notified to the Secretary for inclusion in the Minutes of the next Committee meeting. As you will appreciate, this insurance is a major expense and the more members the less the per capita cost. More to follow when details are firmed up; watch the web!!
5. Project SPAASSM.
  - 5.1. Project SPAASSM has been successful in securing a grant from Army to digitise the entire photographic, video and document collection of AAS Archive. Thank you to our Patron and to the Office of Chief of Army and others in Army who have assisted and supported this application.
  - 5.2. Peter Thornton, Bill Mertin and Ian Morris who ostensibly underpin Project SPAASSM have finished collating part of the collection and are about to send out for commercial digitising. However, further urgent work is required (please see below).
  - 5.3. The Project is also working with Webmaster Rod and the AWM on developing a software application to catalogue the collection and allow members to interactively access the collection and provide captions to those images without captions. There are many images that have no context what so ever so we will be calling on Apprentice brethren far and wide to help complete our history on line.
  - 5.4. Right now, Peter needs local Canberra assistance for about four hours a day for three days a week to prepare for further tenders to ensure we have quotes in by the end of April so we do not loose grant money. Unfortunately the Project is unable to access the collection on weekends so if anyone can assist the Project for some of that time then please contact Peter ASAP (email [peterthornton@grapevine.net.au](mailto:peterthornton@grapevine.net.au) or Phone 02 6296 7003).
6. Reunion.
  - 6.1. Without repeating what is on the web, and to prevent errors creeping into news, please check the web site to get the latest on the Anniversary reunion and memorial dedication. I can confirm that the Meet and Greet/Registration and evening BBQ will be at the Army Museum at Bandiana on 24 October 08. On Saturday, there will then be a short march through Albury for a wreath laying and morning tea. The afternoon will be free for any intake reunions that you may care to plan or for family sightseeing. Saturday evening will be the Anniversary Dinner. Unfortunately the largest venue in the area is the Albury Convention Centre which can only take 750, so it will need to be first in best dressed. We are leaving table organisation to attendees.
  - 6.2. On Sunday there will be a church service at the Memorial Park at Bandiana to dedicate the Army Apprentices Memorial. This will be followed by visits to the Museum and a BBQ lunch. Individual fall out will occur from this event.
  - 6.3. The co-operation we are receiving from Army, the Museum, Albury units and commanders and the Albury City Council and commerce is most gratifying and very much appreciated; thanks to all.
7. Memorial
  - 7.1 Planning for the memorial is progressing, albeit more slowly than I had hoped. We are currently waiting on the working drawings from Bob and an environmental report to enable us to submit a Self Help Works Project Application. Upon advice from Albury staff, we intend to have preliminary surveys and ground work carried out by contract; we are now waiting for quotation responses.



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7.2 We are planning on the construction of the memorial by Apprentices and we will be looking for tradesperson working parties over a weekend at the approximate times:

7.2.1. Bricklaying About early September

7.2.2. General gardening and fixing. Over three weekends in September and October.

If you think you can help please let Chris Moon know on  
cdkamoon@bigpond.com.

7.3 Fundraising will be commencing shortly. Our principal methods will be the sale of engraved pavers that will form the forecourt of the memorial. So here is your opportunity to have your name linked in perpetuity with the memorial and assist in its construction. Pavers will be \$100 and an application form is attached to this Update and is also on the web. We will also be seeking sponsorship from DVA and Army and from the corporate sector. Anyone with corporate or industry contacts that you think would like to assist, please email me their details.

8. Congratulations to LTGEN Ken Gillespie, our Patron, on his up-coming appointment as Chief of Army and to LTCOL Ron Dyne(Rtd) on his election to Mayor of the newly formed Gympie Regional Council in Queensland.
9. Again, please do your best to distribute this Update to all and sundry and please support the Association by joining (details on the Web site) and by registering for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebrations and Memorial Dedication ASAP.