

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – 31 AUGUST 2008

A lot has happened since my last Update, much of which relates to the October 60th Celebrations and Memorial dedication. I would urge all Apprentices to regularly check the web page for the latest news on all matters Apprentice.

I am only able to send this Update to members with email addresses, so I would appreciate members using their own networks to help widen the distribution. It will also be posted to the Association web site.

The program for the weekend has been expanded to include the Association AGM on Friday 24th October at 1500 in the Army Museum conference room. This room will take about 200 people so if you are going, don't be late. An Agenda, nomination forms and copies of reports will be posted on the web site before the meeting. Proxy voting is permitted and proxy forms will be posted on the web site. This notice serves to satisfy the requirement to notify members of the AGM.

Memorial.

We have been seriously delayed in our time line when some concern was expressed that our memorial would somehow overshadow other Corps memorials. This was duly sorted out which resulted in a review of our proposed plan and a relocation from our previously agreed site to what I consider one equally or more prominent. Our thanks go to the area commander and his Chief of Staff for assisting in resolving these issues.

However, as a result of these delays we have lost about \$12,000 in wasted work to date and in potentially lost grants through late submissions. This means that we will be phasing the construction to fit our available funds and we will have to use contractors for the construction rather than have Apprentices undertake some work. As a result, I appeal to you all, that if you can see your way clear to send a donation as soon as possible to the Memorial Fund, or to buy pavers, it would help us considerably. If you have corporate contacts, please sound them out to see if they are amiable to donating to the fund and, if so, then I will send them a formal request. Further information is available on the web site.

I expect the first phase of construction, which is the central memorial garden, AAS badge sculpture and dedication plaque, to be started by 1 September. The next phase is the concrete slab and pavers, then the gate columns and wing walls, hanging the gates and installation of plaques. The final phase will be the installation of lighting and irrigation and landscaping. How far we can go before the dedication will depend entirely on how much money we can raise.

You can see the current donors and sponsors on the web site. Our latest is RAEME Corps Funds who are donating the material to build the gates (a copy of the Marine Gates from Balcombe and Latchford). The ASEME trainees/apprentices are to build the gates. This is a great help and much appreciated. **LATE NEWS:** RAEME Associations in Victoria and Queensland have each donated \$500.00 and BAE \$5000.00. We have also received generous donations from a number of Apprentices and all concrete donated by Pronto ReadyMix. With support like that we will definitely have Phase 1 and 2 completed for the dedication and Phase 3 and 4 will follow very shortly after if this sort of support continues.

Meet and Greet

Cars will be shown where to park and it will be an "open area" for the period of the weekend for access to the Museum, memorial park and Latchford Barracks for those wearing name tags.

On arrival, go to the desk displaying your alpha name bracket and register in, where you will get an event bag containing program, local tourist information and maps, name tags, security pass and some surprise “goodies”. “Nibbles” will be available throughout the afternoon. The Museum will be open and free to those wearing badges, the AGM will start at 1500 and the BBQ will be from 1700. A paying bar will be operated by the Museum Trust; drinks should not be brought into the Defence area from outside.

Jack Westernhagen will have a display of memorabilia and will be taking orders and selling some selected items.

The Apprentice School flag will be on a table and all Apprentices and guests are asked to sign the flag, which will then be donated to the Museum to form part of their Apprentice display. Anyone have Apprentice heritage or historical items they would care to donate to the museum are invited to bring them along.

Parade

The parade in Albury will start promptly at 1000. Dress will be lounge suite, or jacket with tie and full size medals. Car parking is available in Wilson Street. Assembly will be in Swift Street outside the Council offices. The parade will form up at 0945 on the footpath in two blocks, 10 wide with the band between the blocks and with each block self-sorted into intakes within each block; earlier intakes to the front. The parade will be led off by the flag bearers of the AAS Flag and the Australian flag; they will be followed by four vehicles provided by the museum carrying the frail and infirm. Then will follow myself and Frank Maloney, then Jack Westernhagen, Block 1 (Intakes 1 to about 16), Stephen Vlado (parade commander), Block 2 (Intakes about 16 to 49). At 0955 the parade will move out into the road and march off down Swift Street, wheeling left into Kiewa Street where an eyes left by blocks will be given outside the church to the Mayor of Albury, The Chief of Army and any attending VIPs. Official guests will stand behind the saluting dais. After eyes front Frank Maloney and I will leave the front of the parade and join the VIPs to escort them through the rear of the Church to the presentation steps at the rear of the park. Jack Westernhagen will then take the parade which will continue on and left wheel into Dean Street, the main street of town. It will march past the court house and town hall and left wheel into the park where an eyes left by block will be given to the cenotaph before continuing to right wheel and form up one block behind the other in front of the presentation steps and stood “easy”. Families are best to gather in the park and may then move forward to join their partners and parents. There will be a short welcome speech by the Lord Mayor or his representative and a presentation to our Patron LTGEN Gillespie. LTGEN Gillespie will respond and present a memento from the Association to the Council. The parade will then be dismissed and move off with families to the side of the park for a light morning tea.

Saturday Afternoon

This will be a free period but CO/CI of Latchford Barracks, LTCOL Nick Stanton has agreed to open the ASEME for inspection of the trade training facilities between 1400 and 1600. I will be placing a wreath at the memorial in front of the Chapel for Apprentices who lost their lives on active service, one of whom was a mate. Anyone else wishing to place wreaths is welcome to do so, but please let me know, for if we have a number we will have a small ceremony and a bugler. The Chapel will also be open for meditation and inspection of the Apprentice Banner laid up in the Chapel.

The Army Museum will also be open and the afternoon will also provide an opportunity for intake reunions.

Reunion Dinner

The doors to the Convention Centre will open at 1815 and guests may proceed straight into the dining room. Dress will be lounge suit or jacket and tie with miniatures. Table and

seating plans will be available around the foyer and tables will be numbered. I have endeavoured to place every one in their intake groups but later registrations may find themselves seated at a table of Apprentices from adjacent intakes. Every one should be seated by 1830 when grace will be said. Entrees will be on the tables on arrival, but please do not start eating until grace has been said. Menus containing the program of toasts and speeches will be on the table.

There will be a number of VIPs who will be seated at the top table with their hosts. Official guests will be scattered about the room hosted by nominated Apprentices. If you are hosting a guest and their partner please ensure they are introduced to your group and not left standing about. There will be a small number of **short** speeches and toasts and an address by our Patron, LTGEN Gillespie. Drinks will be by waiter service to your tables on a CASH ONLY basis.

Main course will be at 2000 and dessert at 2130 with coffee/tea available at a number of stations throughout the room. The bar will close at 2330 and the evening will wind up at midnight.

During the course of the evening a number of raffles will be held to help the Memorial Fund and to add further interest to the night and the winner of "What Balcombe Meant to Me" competition will be announced. The MC will be Frank Malloney.

Dedication Ceremony

This will commence at 1030 at South Bandiana and all are asked to be seated or standing by then. A number of chairs will be available. The service will be conducted jointly by two clergies, one civilian and one military and both Apprentices. The band will be in attendance.

The Memorial is unlikely to be completely finished unless we get a sudden influx of funds, but there will definitely be the centre memorial garden with the AAS badge sculpture and the dedication plaque, paved area with engraved pavers and the gates fixed to temporary posts as a background to the memorial as an absolute minimum.

Following the dedication the Museum will be open, with free entry when wearing your name tag. A BBQ will be served in the same area as the Meet and Greet at 1230. Thereafter the time's your own and I wish you a safe journey home and happy memories.

MOST IMPORTANT

Please email me ASAP if you require a special diet or are unable to march on the parade, a distance of about 600 metres, and require a vehicle or indeed if you have any special need.

Concluding

Please spread the word among your Apprentice colleagues and AAS staff to attend what will almost certainly be the last Anniversary where we can expect attendance from earlier intakes. At the moment the Balcombe boys are predominant but I would really like to see more from the later intakes of Latchford.

Get those registration forms and your money in as soon as you can, the cut-off date is to reach the PO Box by 9 October 2008. All donations for the Memorial Fund will be most gratefully accepted.

Summary:

- Registration Forms in ASAP
- Donations to the memorial
- Too late for this round of pavers.

Dietary or special needs.
Advise on whether you wish to lay a wreath
Pass this round to all on your network.

See you at Bandiana/Albury in October!!

Regards

Frank

Frank Poole RAE(tn) LTCOL (R)
President