



## AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICE HAT BADGE

From 1948 to 1995, various forms of hat badges were worn by Australian Army Apprentices.

### 1948 - 1951

Initially, Apprentices were issued the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces Rising Sun badge (collar badge size) for wearing on khaki (later changed to navy blue) berets and blues caps. There is evidence that the larger hat size badge was also issued for wearing on berets. This was the “Third Pattern”, struck in 1904. Once the Fourth Pattern became available, from 1949, stocks of that version started to appear however the “Third Pattern” was still being issued into 1951. The 7<sup>th</sup> Intake on enlistment in January 1952 were issued the new shiny gilt “Fourth Pattern” collar badge size.



*Third Pattern*



*Fourth Pattern*

Anecdotally, Apprentices polished their burnished Third Pattern badges as they had seen returning soldiers from Korea and Japan doing.

### 1951 - 1954

The first dedicated school badge was approved and issued from 1951. (*It appears that initially the new approved badge was only used in print form with the struck badge not being issued until during 1953.*)

The badge is modelled on the British Army Apprentices School Badge introduced into the British Army in 1947.



*British pre-1953 Apprentices Badge on the left and the first issued Australian version on the right.*

The composition of the badge is the Cross of St George (England), representing Christian virtues and development of character, superimposed on a cog wheel.

The cog wheel represents trade and technical training. This is then overlaid with crossed double-edged swords, representing the military qualities of courage, discipline and physical fitness.

Over this is a flaming torch of learning.

At the apex of the badge is the Imperial Cross of England representing King and Country.

At the base is a furred pennant with the words  
ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL  
AUSTRALIA

## 1954 – 1990

Following the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953, military insignia, badges and buttons were produced with the St Edwards or “Queen’s” Crown. Note that the King’s Crown badge was issued to Apprentices as late as 1957 and was used on official School documentation until at least 1961.



*British post-1953 Apprentices Badge on the left and the Australian version on the right.*

## 1991 – 1995

When the Bonegilla School was retitled “Army College of TAFE”, the words on the furred pennant at the base of the badge were changed to accommodate the new title, reading “ARMY COLLEGE OF TAFE, AUSTRALIA”. This emblem and that of the subsequent Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC) and Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME, of the ALTC) appear to have never been struck or worn as hat badges.



*Army College of TAFE emblem*

## 1996 – 2017

The Army College of TAFE was replaced by the ALTC, which included the Bonegilla and Bandiana technical training sites as well as other logistics corps’ schools at Bandiana and elsewhere. This emblem appears to have never been struck or worn as a hat badge.



*ALTC emblem*

## **2017 – PRESENT**

In 2017, the ASEME adopted the AAS badge as the basis for its emblem, continuing the tradition. The emblem has not been struck as a metal hat badge. It is used as an embroidered emblem for unit patches and on sporting attire. Trainees attending ASEME wear their allocated corps hat badge.



*ASEME emblem*