



## THE ARMY APPRENTICE SCHOOL GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BANNER



### History And Customs Of The Banner

<sup>1</sup>From the days of early man, some sort of insignia has been employed to distinguish families, tribes and nations. The first military organisation to adopt a unit device was the Roman Army, the units of which carried a bronze or silver eagle mounted on a staff. The first traces of the Banner were found at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 which were in the form of the Bayeux tapestry.

Before being presented, the Banner is dedicated at a religious ceremony on parade when God's blessing is asked. Pope Alexander II blessed a banner which William the Conqueror carried at Hastings, and at the Battle of the Standard in 1138 when Yeoman (*sic*) of Yorkshire, fighting the Scots, took with them the consecrated Banners of St. Peter of York, St. John of Beverley and St. Wilfred of Ripon. They fought so fiercely to save these banners that they defeated heavy odds.

The Banner embodies the history, spirit and tradition of the unit to which it is presented. The Banner is highly valued, carefully guarded and treated with great respect.

<sup>2</sup>Three types of Banners in the Australian Army are: the Sovereign's Banner which may be presented to any corps or unit including those with Colours; Banners presented by other members of the Royal Family (these may be presented to any corps which does not have an entitlement to Standards, Guidons or Colours); and the Governor-General's Banner for training establishments that do not possess a Colour. Banners are accorded the same respect and compliments as the Queen's Colours.

<sup>3</sup>Current Australian Army custom is that when Guidons or Colours are to be retired, they are laid up in a place approved by the Chief of Army, such as: a principal municipal building; a State or Federal government building; a military church or chapel or suitable regional cathedral, church or chapel; a corps or local civilian museum; a corps school; or a war memorial. Once laid up, Colours are left as they are and will, in time, disintegrate (dust to dust); they should not be re-conditioned or refurbished.

When Colours are laid up, they are hung parallel to the floor and not at an angle. It is acceptable for them to be stored in a glass display case to preserve their life so they can be viewed by the public domain. The only time they may be removed from their resting place is in the case of a unit being

brought back onto the Order of Battle and the Colours are still serviceable or the building providing the resting place is to be disposed of or demolished. In such cases the Chief of Army may approve the Banner be relocated to another suitable resting place.

## **The Army Apprentice School Governor-General's Banner**

The Governor-General's Banner was presented to the Army Apprentices School by His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Paul Hasluck GCMG KStJ on the 30 August 1969 during the 21st Birthday celebrations of the Army Apprentices School. The banner pays compliments to Her Majesty and the Governor General only.

The parade originally planned for Citation Oval had at short notice due to heavy rain during the days prior, to be relocated to the School parade ground inside the Marine Memorial Gates.



*Blessing of the banner by the Chaplains General with Southern Command Band in the background.*



*Banner Ensign, Apprentice SSGT Ian Moffatt, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner, receiving the Banner.  
Major Alex Weaver OC Regimental Training Wing (back to camera) Governor General His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Paul Hasluck, G.C.M.G., K.St.J., Major General C.E. Long, CCE, GOC Southern Command.*



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*The obverse of the Banner depicts the Standard of the Governor-General of Australia with the year of presentation. The Standard being a symbol of loyalty to the throne.*



*The reverse depicts the badge of the Army Apprentices School.*

The parade comprised the Apprentice Battalion of four companies, each under the command of their Apprentice (WO2) Sergeant Major who were A company Apprentice WO2 W.W. Rudland (Vehicle Mechanic), B company Apprentice WO2 G.D. Lancaster (Fitter & Turner), C company Apprentice WO2 M.M. Campbell (Electrical Fitter) & J company Apprentice WO2 B.J. Cox (Carpenter & Joiner).

Apprentice WO1 K.S. Lowe (Fitter & Turner) as Battalion Sergeant Major (BSM) was Parade Commander.

The Banner Party for the acceptance of the banner from His Excellency was:

Banner Party Commander- WO1 N.E, Heritage	Royal Australian Regiment
Banner Ensign – Apprentice Staff Sergeant I.D. Moffat	22nd Intake
Banner Escort – Apprentice Staff Sergeant R.N. Gillette	22nd Intake
Banner Escort – Apprentice Staff Sergeant R.B. Snape	22nd Intake

Following His Excellency's presentation of the Banner to the Banner Party Ensign His Excellency addressed the Parade.

*“Commanding Officer, Staff and Apprentices of the Army Apprentices School.  
The act of presentation of the Governor-General's Banner has just been completed. We all know the ancient origins and purpose of a banner; in other days, standards were carried alongside leaders in battle to mark their place and progress, and to serve to rally followers.*

*On one side, your banner shows the standard of the Governor-General of Australia; His symbol is to display your loyalty to the Throne of England. On the other side is the badge of the Army Apprentices School, and it reminds you of your loyalty to one another and to the School. It is 21 years since the School was established and it is appropriate to mark the occasion with the presentation of the banner, which recognises the importance of the school in the training of the Soldier-Tradesman for service.*

*In accepting this banner you have recognised these principles of loyalty and service. You have made a pledge and I know that you will keep it.*

*In your future service in the Army, the success of military operations may often depend on your integrity and skill in the preparation of equipment required for operations. Your work must be such that you can hand any piece of military equipment to its user with confidence and pride in workmanship. Perhaps even more critical is the fact the user will be able to have total confidence in the equipment you give to him. Your Queen and your country depend on you and your mates.*

*You are required to hand this banner on to succeeding young men, encouraging them to maintain the principles of loyalty and service that you acknowledge by receiving this banner. In your bearing today there is clear proof of your readiness to accept and uphold this responsibility.”*

(Please note the above address was made on 30th August 1969 and it would be another 15 years until female apprentices were included in the ranks!)

## **The Banner In Service**

During the next 27 years the banner was included in all official parades involving Army Apprentices within the School and externally with the first official duty being the Vice Regal guard, accompanied by the Southern Command Band, for the opening of the Royal Melbourne show by His Excellency Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe, KCMG, KCVO, KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ Governor of Victoria on 19th September 1969.



This was closely followed by the graduation of the 22nd Intake of Apprentices on 6th December 1969 with the photograph below showing the inaugural Banner Party.



(Escort Apprentice Staff Sergeant R.B. Snape, Banner Ensign Apprentice Staff Sergeant I.D. Moffat and Escort Apprentice Staff Sergeant R.N. Gillette.)

Subsequent official duties included all Army Apprentice Graduation Parades, external guards for official occasions including Australia Day, Anzac Day and when exercising the Freedom of Mornington.

Then, following the School's relocation to Bonegilla the Schools award of the Freedom of Albury and there are numerous other occasions.

The final parade by Apprentices with the banner was the graduation of the 49th Intake on 8th April 1995.

## Laying up of the Banner

On 1 January 1991, the Army Apprentices School was renamed the Army College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE). On 8 April 1995, the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme ceased and, on 1 December 1995, the Army College of TAFE was included in the formation of the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC). After a parade on 29 November 1996 to celebrate the first anniversary of the ALTC, the Banner was laid up in the Chapel of Saint Peter, Bonegilla, Victoria.

The Banner Party for the Laying Up was:  
Banner Ensign – Lieutenant M.J. Vroomans  
Banner Escorts – Staff Sergeant P. Myhill  
– Sergeant D.F.R. Gammon



The Banner *at rest* in the Chapel of Saint Peter, Bonegilla, Victoria.

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1 From the Booklet for the Army Logistic Training Centre First Birthday Parade and Laying Up of the Governor- General's Banner 29 November 1996

2 Retrieved from <https://www.24rarassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/customsandtraditions.pdf>

3 Australian Army Ceremonial and Protocol Manual Chapter 10

Also from personal files of participants from the award parade and the Office-bearers 2022.