

THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INC.
(ACT INCORPORATION NO A04404)**

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WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.AUSTARMYAPPRENTICE.ORG](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)

PATRON: MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW FREEMAN AM (RETD)

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From the President

By Keith Lowe, 22nd Fitter and Turner, President AAAA, president@austarmyapprentice.org

As I prepare this report on 4th July, I advise we have added a further five names to our Association Vale List, two of which are historical deaths only recently advised to us. Fortunately, this is a downward trend in numbers which we hope will remain.

Of the two historical deaths we have one that the date of his passing is unknown so I appeal to all readers if anyone has information concerning 219227 Ashley John STANLEY, 24th Intake Fitter & Turner to please let me know via email to president@austarmyapprentice.org so we may update our records.

I take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones during this time.

Lest We Forget

In my May report I asked if anyone could assist with the names of deceased Apprentices who besides Cpl George Haynes had their ashes interred at our Memorial at Bandiana. Disappointingly I have received not one response. I am sure someone must be aware of some information that may assist so please, regardless of how vague it may be, let me know what you know.

This is our last Newsletter before our Association's next Annual General Meeting and in keeping with our Constitution the following Committee positions must stand down prior to elections being conducted for appointment to a two year term: President, Secretary, Heritage Officer (currently vacant) and three (3) Ordinary Committee Members (currently held by Robert (Bob) Clarke 22nd VM, Wayne Davis 50th EF & John Culbert 18th C&J). All those standing down may accept nomination for re-election for a further term however, please remember as mentioned in my previous report, all but two who are due to stand down are over the age of seventy (70). Therefore, I encourage any reader who is a financial member to please give consideration to offering your services to one of the positions.

Occasionally we receive via our Website Contact page statements like: "*I don't appear to be on your mailing list*", or "*I am not receiving any notices*". In every instance the enquirer is found to be not a current member and, in many cases, has never been a member. Unless we have you on record as a member, we will never be able to keep abreast of contact addresses.

Further to this when we went to a Web-based membership register we determined the most appropriate identifier is individual's regimental/service number (NOT PMKeyS) as this will not change, whereas email addresses often do and not everyone is diligent in keeping their contacts up to date with changes.

When writing to us can you please include your regimental number. This helps greatly in identifying who you are. This was highlighted recently when we had fellows with the same name and similar email addresses causing



confusion for those coordinating our reunion registrations. A few more keystrokes will make life easier for our volunteers.

Until next time stay safe and look out for other all other Apprentices you know of. All the very best to all.

Postscript

Since providing the above to our Newsletter Editor I was saddened to learn from Terry Dillon, 11th Intake F&T that 342773 Ronald (Ron) Edward James COOK, 11th Blacksmith died in the early hours of Tuesday 11th July last. Ron collapsed during the previous weekend and was rushed to Frankston hospital on life support. He did not regain consciousness.

An extract from the 1958/59 Army Apprentices’ School journal advises “... congratulations go to Apprentice RSM Cook on winning the Regimental Training Medal. The youngest apprentice in the 11th Intake, he won the respect of all who knew him.”

Ron returned to Balcombe in the mid 1960s as Sgt Blacksmith Instructor, later transferring to the civilian staff and, with the demise of blacksmith training in the Army, he went on to instruct in Metal Fabrication, retiring as Senior Instructor (SI) in 1982.

Ron was a long-standing member of our Association and had arranged to attend our approaching 75th Anniversary Reunion. On behalf of our members and all Apprentices who had the privilege of knowing Ron Cook I extend our sincerest condolences to Ron’s widow Lyn. May he rest in peace.

Apprentices in the news

RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) Chairmans' Award – James (Max) WALKER, 40th Intake Motor Mechanic

Courtesy RAQ Friday Files 5 May 2023

“It was my absolute pleasure at the May monthly meeting to present one of our Life Subscribers Max Walker with a Chairman's Award.

Max has been instrumental in organising the Anzac Day March for the Association in Brisbane for the past five years. He has consistently attended the Anzac Day committee meetings and communicated back to the Association, organised buggies for our members who have mobility issues and facilitated the attendance of the serving OJT craftsmen to attend and parade our banner. The Anzac Day parade is a significant event on the Association calendar and Max should be commended for his efforts.

Max is a very worthy recipient and on behalf of the Association congratulations on your Award.”



Max Walker (right) receiving the RAQ Chairmans Award from Pete Matthews, 37th Intake Motor Mechanic, Chairman, May 2023

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Alan GOSTELOW, 14th Intake Vehicle Mechanic – Anzac Day Nikenbah

Courtesy Fraser Coast Chronicle via RAQ Friday Files 5 May 2023



Alan Gostelow enlisted as a 14th Intake Vehicle Mechanic Army Apprentice in 1959. He served in South Vietnam with 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot from 9 Jul 1970 to 8 Jul 1971. He also served in the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation, serving with the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. Alan retired in 1984.

(L) RAQ member Alan Gostelow, April 2023

He was deployed to Malaysia during the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation, where he served in the 28th Commonwealth Infantry

Brigade as a private soldier for Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) and trained as a recovery mechanic in the ready reaction force.

Master Artificers

In the [August 2021 TAA](#) was an article on inaugural RAEME Master Artificers. A new cohort of Master Artificers has been appointed and announced in the [RAEME Craftsman 2022](#), as follows – ground trades represented since the DFRT Determination effective 11 May 2023 are shown in brackets and Apprentices are underlined:

ECN 146, Fitter Armament (Weapon Technician) – WO1 Mick Nolan, 44th Fitter & Turner replaced WO1 Michael Waters, 42nd Fitter & Turner

ECN 226, Recovery Mechanic (Recovery Technician) – WO1 Mark Ingleton

ECN 229, Vehicle Mech (Vehicle Technician) – WO1 Marc Craigie, 46th Motor Mech replaced WO1 James Grant

ECN 235, Metalsmith (Material Technician) – WO1 Grant O’Leary

ECN 411, Technician Aircraft – WO1 Peter Chambers

ECN 412, Technician Avionics – WO1 Jason Hawke, 43rd Electronics Tradesman

ECN 418, Technician Electrical (Energy Technician) – WO1 Sean Roberts, 44th Electrical Fitter replaced WO1 Wayne Davis, 50th Electrical Fitter

ECN 421, Technician Electronic Systems (Electronics Technician) – WO1 Benjamin Munro replaced CAPT Roger Smith, 38th Electronics Tradesman.

Glen Edward BETHEL, 43rd Intake Electronics Tradesman – Chief Technology Officer Tritium DCFC Ltd

Retrieved from <https://tritiumcharging.com/tritium-names-glen-bethel-as-chief-technology-officer-and-brian-johns-as-vice-president-of-product-development/>

Tritium, a global leader in direct current (DC) fast chargers for electric vehicles (EVs), announced on 20 June 2023 that Glen Bethel has been named the company’s Chief Technology Officer.

“As CTO, Bethel will oversee the company’s software development, test and release, information communication technology, communications engineering, data services, cyber security, modeling, and simulation.”



[Glen] *“joined Tritium in January 2022 and most recently served as the company’s Vice President of Operations Engineering. He brings to Tritium a deep expertise in electronics and systems engineering, computer science, software development, and systems integration, including senior engineering roles at Boeing Defence Australia leading research and development and developing and integrating capabilities into the Loyal Wingman project. Bethel also has complex modelling and simulation expertise through past roles with Boeing Defence as the Technical Lead for the Systems Analysis Laboratory and from his tenure as the CIO Land Warfare Development Centre in the Australian Army, in which he also served for over 20 years in electronics and systems engineering roles.”*



Vietnam Veterans Vigil

In the last edition ([TAA Vol 5 Iss 9 May 2023](#)) were details of the Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV) which includes, on 3 August 2023 at 1100 hrs, services to be held at every grave or commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas for Australian servicemen who died in Vietnam. The services may be attended by anyone who wishes to do so. Other related events include:

- 1) 3 August 2023 at 0530 hrs – Dawn Service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM), Anzac Parade, Canberra
- 2) 3 August 2023 – Dusk Service – Stand Down at Birkhill Cemetery, Scotland for LCPL Robert BUCHAN, 12 Pl, D Coy, 6 RAR (2nd Tour), whose patrol was ambushed
- 3) 18 August 2023 from 1000 hrs – national Commemorative Service at the AVFNM, televised by the ABC – latest details on planning and registering your attendance are [here](#).

Six Army Apprentices paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam from 21 February 1967 to 27 October 1971. Their names are listed on plaques near the Chapel of St Peter, Bonegilla, at the Army Apprentices Memorial, Bandiana, and on our Website's [Honour Board](#).

They are also listed below, as extracted on 20 July 2023 from the KIA page on the VVV Website <https://vvv.org.au/523KIA/>, to inform readers of the locations of the graves or commemorative plaque sites for these Apprentices. "ALLOCATED" indicates if someone has volunteered to commemorate that person on the day.

NAME/ ALLOCATED?	SVC NO/ INTAKE & TRADE	UNIT	CEMETERY & GRAVE/PLAQUE
POOLE, Michael Damien/Yes	342916/ 17 th Musician	5 RAR	Dromana Cemetery 1065 Arthurs Seat Rd, Arthurs Seat, VIC 3936 Area: ROMAN CATHOLIC Row: 11 Grave: 3
WRIDE, Donald Spence/Yes	18665/ 14 th Vehicle Mechanic	1 Fd Sqn	Northern Suburbs Crematorium 199 Delhi Rd, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113 Area: Undetermined Wall / panel: QH Niche no: 213
MOORE, Barry John/ Yes	242811/ 8 th Blacksmith	1 Fd Sqn	Urunga Cemetery Cemetery Rd, Urunga, NSW 2455 Area: Church of England Row: G Grave: 6
ENGSTROM, Ronald John/ Yes	18797/ 18 th Carpenter & Joiner	1 Fd Sqn	Queensland Garden of Remembrance Graham Rd, Bridgeman Downs, QLD 4035 Area: Wall 1 Wall: 1 Row: D
NICHOLS, Raymond Kevin/No	1797/ 1 st Electrician (Vehicle & Plant)	106 Fd Wksp	Springvale Botanical Cemetery 600 Princes Hwy, Springvale, VIC 3171, Area: Banksia Wall / panel: Z Niche number: 73
HALL, John/ No	243015/ 11 th Clerk	12 Fd Regt	Newcastle Memorial Park Cemetery & Crematorium Anderson Dr, Beresfield, NSW 2322, Area: RETURNED SERVICE WALL Wall / panel: 14B Niche no: 15

Vietnam Veterans & Families Special Opening – AWM

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, the Australian War Memorial (AWM) will open the Commemorative Area and Galleries for Vietnam veterans and their families outside normal opening hours.

Dates: Fri 18 Aug from 1745 hrs to 1945 hrs, and Sat 19 Aug from 0800 hrs to 1000 hrs.

Note: All visitors will require a ticket for entry. Book here: [BOOK A VETERANS AND FAMILIES TICKET](#)



Welfare and Vale notices

Contact: Association Welfare Officer Barry Minster OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mechanic, welfare@austarmyapprentice.org

The Welfare Officer:

- supports members in determining their welfare and other Commonwealth and State Government entitlements
- by helping them locate organisations who may assist
- liaises with similar service bodies on welfare matters
- on advice of the death of members, ensures that information is correct and that NOKs are being cared for, sends condolences, and advises the Secretary of updates required on the Website
- on advice of members in hospital, sick or otherwise indisposed, arranges visits to ensure his/her welfare.

Planning ahead

As we are all ageing, and the average age constantly grows (of those alive), we need to be prepared for transitioning into aged care or even for our demise. Planning ahead is highly recommended and there are a number of actions we need to consider:

- **Financial Planning**, to help take the worry out of transitioning into aged care, there are many organisations that can provide guidance. Most of these charge for their services so care is required to make sure you get value for money. The Welfare Officer can assist and can provide a document that provides details on: Powers of Attorney or Guardianship, Wills, Advanced Health Care Plans, and DVA support services.
- **[DVA Planning Ahead kit](#)**, publications to help veterans and their families prepare for bereavement, including:
 - * **Personal Information Sheet D8729** – to record personal details to ensure there is a record after someone passes away. The form is strictly for reference only and is not to be sent back to DVA.
 - * **Medical Details of Veteran D8730** – to record medical details to ensure there is a record to aid in a War Widows pension claim after a veteran passes away.
- **[Documenting Your Affairs - A resource kit to assist you and your loved ones](#)**, has been prepared by the Vietnam Veterans Outer Eastern Melbourne (VVOEM) Sub-branch.

Vale notices

The untimely passing of a former Army Apprentice is always a sad occasion. It is important when notifying of the passing that we are clear about the details of the notice. Whilst Facebook posts draw our attention to the passing of Apprentices, occasionally there is insufficient information to assist in maintaining the Apprentices nominal roll.

The AAAA Website has a [Vale Notification Form](#) that prompts for the necessary information. If you don't have all the requested information, then send what you have, and we can follow it up. Thank you to all those who have provided details.

This edition's Vale summary below includes some updates and historic entries.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
18	48647	Peter ANNISON	Plumber	Update – 3 Apr 2007
13	18618	Norman William HUSSEY	Fitter and Turner	Update – 8 Jun 2022
12	243025	Peter Anthony CHARGE	Fitter and Turner	12 Aug 2015
8	342618	Ronald Victor BEHAN	Vehicle Mechanic	25 Jan 2023
24	219227	Ashley John STANLEY	Fitter and Turner	Unknown
33	320674	Mark Anthony MELVILLE	Electronics Tradesman	7 May 2023
17	18747	George Luke CYBULSKI	Vehicle Mechanic	31 May 2023
25	220154	Robert Joseph MULHALL	Radio Mechanic (DNG)	22 Jun 2023
42	235764	Michael John DAVIS	Motor Mechanic	6 July 2023
11	342773	Ronald Edward James COOK	Blacksmith	11 Jul 2023
11	242997	John Arthur PEPPER	Radio Mechanic	21 Jul 2023



Vale 26275 WO1 James (Jim) HUSBAND OAM BEM, 24 Jun 1933 to 21 May 2023

Jim Husband, RA Inf, RA Sigs and RA Inf, AAS PTI 1959-1963 was featured in [TAA Vol 5 Iss 7 Nov 2022](#). Sadly, Peter Radford, 13th Intake Fitter & Turner has advised that Jim passed away on 21 May 2023 in Coolum Beach, Qld.

In their Honour - Kenneth Leonard Everett

By Jim Hislop OAM, 9th Intake Fitter & Turner, AAAA Trustee, 18 May 2023

The life story about Kenneth Leonard Everett, briefly summarised below, was told by his close friend, Jim Hislop and can be read in full in the Soldier On Winter Journal 2023 ([here](#)).

"Ken was born on 19 May 1933, in the UK. As a young boy during World War 2, he developed a profound sense of admiration for the pilots of the RAF. **When he left school in the late 1940's, he entered apprentice training as an Instrument Maker and, when called up for National Service in 1951, he was allocated to the RAF as an Airframe Fitter.** At the end of his National Service, he re-enlisted and completed officer and then pilot training. He left the RAF as a Squadron Leader and became an instructor in engineering and obtained a degree in civil engineering.

Ken and his wife arrived in Albury in 2009 and became Australian citizens in August 2011. Jim met him in about 2014. Ken had a great love for all things military and an amazing ability to conduct research into any topic put to him. Jim used Ken's skills to help with research into the DFRDB scheme and a wide range of military historical topics that fitted into Ken's own interests of politics and history. The things Ken valued most in life were his love for his wife and helping people with their problems.

"As his own transition from the RAF was very poorly managed, he asked me what he could do to help Australian servicemembers leaving the military. Through my work in ex-service organisations, I told him that Soldier On was the organisation that assisted with veterans when transitioning. Within a couple of days, he and his wife had new wills drawn up to reflect their wishes of making a bequest to Soldier On," says Jim. In addition to Ken's bequest to Soldier on he also left \$120,000 to the children's ward of Albury/Wodonga Health. Not bad for a lad who commenced his military career as an Apprentice.

Ken passed away on 11 June 2021 in Albury. *"We pay respects to Ken for the sacrifices he made for our peace and liberty through serving and supporting. We remember his life and continue to enable veterans and their families to thrive in his honour."*

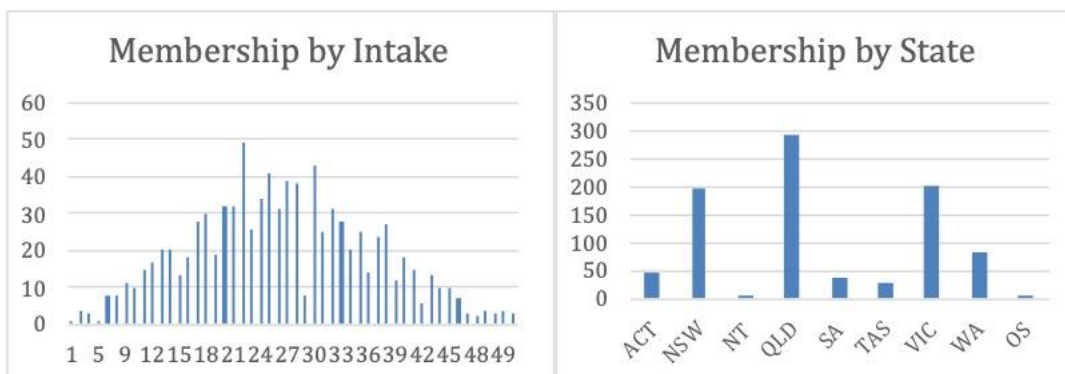
Membership matters

BY Graeme Smail, 35th ET – Membership Secretary membership@austarmyapprentice.org

Membership Status

The current state of the membership (as at 15 July) is 902 financial members, consisting of: Life - 3, Ordinary 659, Retired 234, and Associates 6, representing an overall decrease in membership by 7 since the AGM in Oct 2022. 55 members have allowed their membership to expire in 2023, which is a little disappointing. I will again attempt a mailout to these members (21 Jan – 30 Jun 2023) in the coming weeks to attempt to reduce this number.

Membership Analysis





Events reports

Anzac Day March in Toowoomba, 2023

By Liz Fitzgibbon, 40th Intake Electronics Tradesman

A big thank you to everyone who showed up for the Anzac Day March in Toowoomba. It was an absolute pleasure to host, and so wonderful to see so many turn up. A wonderful day from the Dawn Service on with many familiar and new faces.

Many of the local regulars were away, so it was wonderful to have around 30 Appies march behind the banner, with others looking on from the crowd or marching with other units. From the 10th to the 48th, the Evens won it on the day, with only a couple of Odds attending. The "Odds are Gods" comment shouted from the crowd, much to everyone's amusement, got a lot of giggles from the ranks.



A very big thank you to Bob Bell, 10th F&T, for laying a wreath on our behalf. It was so nice to have some of our older members there.

Back at The Goods Shed afterwards, a brief history and photo display was there for all to see. Another big thank you to Chris Bell, 20th EF, for allowing us to display a very old Apprentice flag. It hung proudly above the Two-up ring. Thanks also to Jim Hislop for getting photos to me from the AAS collection.

Bob Bell, 10th F&T

Liz Fitzgibbon, 40th ET (front)



It always surprises me when you recognise people you served with and find out later that they were an Apprentice, just like you. We are a rare breed who don't get the chance often to get together and tell our history. I can't wait for the next one, wherever it may be.

Australian Army Apprentices get together at Merrylands RSL Club, 20 May 2023

From Michael Bowman, 31st Intake Electrical Mechanic

All enjoyed the catch up at the Merrylands RSL Club. Intakes represented were: 1 x 7th, 2 x 12th, 1 x 14th, 1 x 18th, 1 x 19th, 1 x 20th, 1 x 21st, 3 x 22nd, 2 x 25th, 1 x 31st, and 1 x 32nd. Here are a few of the photos supplied.

(R): Richard Pike, 21st VM, AAAA Treasurer; Michael O'Donnell, 22nd Brick, AAAA Committee Member

(Background L-R) Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T, AAAA President; Harry Cole, 7th VM (partially hidden); Kerry Tunbridge, 14th VM; Kevin Middleton, 12th F&T (partially hidden) and Jenny Middleton





John Culbert, 18th C&J, AAAA Committee Member;
Jeff Thomas, 12th VM; and Ian Bateman, 32nd MM



Kerry Tunbridge, 14th VM; Kevin Middleton, 12th F&T and
Jenny Middleton

ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday, 7 June 2023

By Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mechanic, Newsletter Editor and ACT Regional Rep

We had another strong response to the invitations with three Appies travelling from Sydney: Harry Cole (7th VM), Kevin Middleton (12th F&T), and Kerry Tunbridge (14th VM). We had an additional 24, including 8 partners, representing Intakes 2 to 33. Again, Radio Mechs/ETs were the best represented trade with 10.

For the September gathering, we will have some lucky door prizes, kindly donated by Harry Cole, so bring your entry fee.

Report on the 24th Army Apprentice Annual Reunion South East QLD, 10 June 2022, Bulimba Bowls Club

By Brian Daley OAM, 14th Intake Vehicle Mechanic

The Annual Army Apprentice Reunion South East Qld was held on Saturday 10 June 2023 at the Bulimba Bowls Club, Thynne Rd, Balmoral.

The weather was fine and approximately 150 Apprentices and partners were in attendance and enjoyed the BBQ and each other's company. Many Apprentices travelled from far away to be there on the day. We had members from places such as Sydney, Perth, Newcastle, and Townsville, and many nearer places as well. The two cooks, Mick and Peter did a fine job once again, and their efforts over many years are really appreciated.

The 'youngest' Apprentice Intake was represented by Pauline Blackwood 44th, followed by David Barnes and Dan Gough both 43rd; all were VMs. Also from the lower intake numbers we had two members from the 8th Intake, Don Adams C&J, and Max Lockwood ET, and also two from the 11th Intake, Ray Jennings VM and Harry Nielson F&T, and Peter Lambert VM from the 13th.

The largest Intake represented was once again the 30th, with 15 members in attendance, closely followed by the 14th with 12 members in attendance.

As I previously announced when I recently turned 80, I wished to retire from being the organiser of this reunion. I called for expressions of interest for a new organiser. **To date no hands have been raised.** I am quite happy to support any persons or group who are interested in taking over the running of the Annual Reunion. I have kept the organisation of this reunion simple, but age does weary you so now it needs a new person or group to take over.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE THIS FANTASTIC DAY JUST FADE AWAY.

The photo below shows the 14th group, L to R: Norm Wells VM, Brian (Vlad) Daley VM, Graham Poole VM, Phil (Doc) Livingstone Plumber, Rendell (REW) Brown F&T, Alan (Lou) Gastelow VM [see above], Dave Haxton Elec Mech; John Nickols VM, Bob King VM, Alf Richardson VM, Sid Young Radio Mech, and David Grant VM.



King Charles’ Coronation – Grant family history – Sunshine Coast

By Ross Grant AM, 17th Intake Fitter & Turner via RAQ Friday Files 12 May 2023

“In 1954, after Queen Elizabeth’s coronation, my cousin, Roy Hunter, who served on HMAS Sydney and was part of the contingent which went to the Coronation, gave this souvenir of the Coronation to me as gift – I was about 8 years old.

I have kept it in a safe place for many years, and although it has been damaged, it is in pretty good condition. The shaft through the centre of the horses is broken at the halfway mark and the coach and horses need a good clean. The ensemble is made of die cast aluminium.

See this link: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/the-coronation-contingent-of-1953>

This was my nostalgic contribution for my grandkids as part of the commemorations for King Charles’ Coronation.”






Upcoming events

Notification of upcoming events

For Regional Representatives or Association members organising an event where Apprentices are attending, notify the Association of the event so, it can be listed on the Website for all to see. Potentially more people will know about it and therefore attend. It can also be “sponsored” by the Association and be covered by the Association’s insurance, so if there is an incident or the like, the organiser may not be out of pocket.


For members to notify the Association of any event, there is a form located on the AAAA Website at <https://austarmyapprentice.org/association-forms/>. This information is then sent to the Secretary who will then minute the event and have the notice added to the Website; the insurance cover will then attach.

AAAA and other Apprentices functions

Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
SA All Intake Reunion , Largs Bay RSL, Sat, 5 Aug 2023, 1200-1600	<u>Michael Thompson via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia’s Youth and Australian Army Apprentices Association [official] or email mjsthommo54@hotmail.com</u>
ACT Region Quarterly Lunch , Ainslie FC, Wed, 6 Sep 2023, 1200	Please let me know if you intend to be there, news@austarmyapprentice.org
WA Annual Appy Muster , Cockburn RSL, Sat, 7 Oct 2023, 1400	Bring your partners, <u>Bob Coventry, 22nd RM, WA Regional Rep, bobcov51@gmail.com</u>
<p>Reunion to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Formation of the AAS, and the 40th Anniversary of the official opening of Latchford Barracks on 25 Sep 1983.</p> <p>* Registration, Meet & Greet, Albury Entertainment Centre, Fri 20 Oct, 1600-2000. Registration cards and lanyards to be collected on arrival will be required to be worn for entrance to all events/activities. Finger food from 1700-1900. Drinks at individuals’ expense. AAAA merchandise on sale. Dress: Smart casual, collared shirts and long pants for men.</p> <p>* Association AGM, Albury Entertainment Centre, Sat 21 Oct, 1000 for 1100 start.</p> <p>* Reunion Dinner, Albury Entertainment, Centre, Sat 21 Oct, 1930 to 2300, for 450 attendees, seating on round tables (numbers per table – 10 TBC). Two courses to be served to tables, alternating entrée and main. Special dietary needs will be accommodated if notified via the registration form. Tea and coffee provided. Drinks at individuals’ expense from the bar. Dress: Coat and tie/after five/evening wear.</p> <p>* Wreath Laying Service, Museum visit and BBQ, Sun 22 Oct, 1055, South Bandiana Memorial Park. Alcohol-free but soft drinks available. Parking arrangements and access to the military area TBC. Dress: Respectable attire and enclosed footwear for the Museum.</p>	<p>See History below (page 13) for a brief timeline of the 75 years of events since the formation of the AAS on 2 Aug 1948.</p> <p>Registration</p> <p>Association members who submitted an expression of interest in attending have had their opportunity to confirm their registration and pay by 31 May.</p> <p>Registrations are now open to anyone else who may wish to attend until all remaining vacancies are filled.</p> <p>Cut-off date for all registrations is 30 Sep 2023.</p> <p>A single registration fee covers all activities/events: \$120.00 per person (for Members, their partners, additional carers if required, accompanying disabled dependants, and widows of deceased Members who were financial at the date of their death).</p> <p>events@austarmyapprentice.org</p> 



Other associations, etc

Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
<p>Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV), various, Thu 3 Aug 2023, 1100hr and various, and Fri 18 Aug 2023 (Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day). (contd)</p> <p>On 3 Aug 2023, a service will be held at every grave or commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas. Dawn svc to be held at the AVFNM and other svcs at 1100 local time across Australia and in Malaysia. The last svc, at dusk, to be held in Scotland, where LCPL Robert Buchan is laid to rest with his Mum and Dad. A Commemorative Svc to be televised by the ABC on 18 Aug 2023 from the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM) in Canberra.</p>	<p>2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training team (AATTV) in South Vietnam on 3 Aug 1962 and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972.</p> <p>Surviving Vietnam Veterans and Australians will have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way across the nation and overseas to recognise the national loss, and pay their respects to those Killed in Action (KIA) and to show solidarity with their loved ones.</p> <p>More details at https://vvv.org.au</p>
<p>3 Combat Engineer Regiment Regimental Ball, Melville Entertainment, Alligator Creek, QLD, Fri, 18 Aug 2023</p>	<p>Dress: Formal Country attire, <u>3 Combat Engineer Regiment Facebook Group</u></p>
<p>RAEME Association ACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spanner Club, Friday, 4 Aug 23, 1600 * Informal drinks, Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, last Tuesday each month, 1930 * Informal mixed lunch, Friday, 1 Oct 2023, 1230 	<p>*Other venues will be advised as required.</p> <p>https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php</p> <p>For details, visit the ACT RAEME Association Website: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events</p> <p>Secretary, cookie@raeme.com</p>
<p>RAEME Association Qld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion, Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch, Sun, 20 Aug 2023, 1100hr, RSVP by 14 Aug * Spanner Club, Indooroopilly Hotel, Fri, 25 Aug 2023 * Gold Coast, AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach, Sat, 26 Aug 2023 * RAQ Darling Downs Luncheons, Toowoomba, Sun, 10 Sep 2023, and 26 Nov 2023 * Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore RSL, Sat, 30 Sep 2023 * NQ Gathering, TBA Townsville, Sep/Oct 2023 * All Ranks Luncheon, Port Office Hotel, Sat 2 Dec 2023 	<p>http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events</p>  <p>History of the Mermaid Beach AEME Surf Life Saving Club</p>
<p>RAEME Association SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * RAEME Luncheon (location TBA), Tue, 5 Sep 2023 * Committee of Management Meeting, Wed, 20 Sep 2023 * RAEME & other Log Assns Combined Function, Fri, 22 Sep * AGM, Sat, 2 Dec 2023 	<p>https://sa.raeme.org.au/</p>
<p>RASigs Association VIC, AGM & Lunch, Thu, 7 Sep 2023, Greensborough RSL, 1100, Lunch from 1200</p>	<p>President Gavin Lee, gavin.lee18@hotmail.com, 0425 722 347</p>
<p>102 Fd Wksp Reunion, Gannawarra, VIC, 29-30 Sep 2023</p>	<p>Noel Lake OAM, (03) 5456 9246, koonda@active8.net.au</p>
<p>Veteran Games, 29 Sep – 2 Oct 2023, Gold Coast</p>	<p>https://veteranqames.com</p>
<p>1 Armoured Regiment LAD reunion, Stawell, VIC, Oct-Nov 2023 (TBC)</p>	<p>All past and present members of 1 AR LAD, Robert Bail 0419 355721, email r.bail@bigpond.com</p>
<p>106 Field Workshop Annual Lunch, Steeples, Mornington, VIC, 20 Nov 2023</p>	<p>All past and present members of 106 Fd Wksp, Milton Pearson, 0488 050261, csm1066869@gmail.com</p>
<p>Central Victorian Veterans Group monthly get-together, Bendigo RSL Club Terrace, 1st Thursday of the month, 1830</p>	<p>Jonathan Crust, 48th Carpenter & Joiner via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth</p>
<p>50th Anniversary of building Lord Howe Island Airport, 2024</p> <p>From Feb to Sep 1974, during Exercise Kentia Palm, and led by a detachment from 1 FER Holsworthy, and using RAE, RASVY, RASIGS, RAAOC, RAEME and AACC members, the Lord</p>	<p>To celebrate the 50th Anniversary, organisers are putting together a nominal roll to plan and organise a reunion. If you or anyone you know was involved, please contact gary.barker3@bigpond.com. This will get you added to</p>



Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
Howe Island Airport was built. Also advertised through Corps channels and Defence-related journals. Pass this on to non-Appies who were involved.	the roll and keep you in the loop on further developments. <u>From Facebook, Win Coles, 23rd Radio Mech, 14 Oct 2021</u>
Holdfast Reunion 2024, Townsville, Fri 26 to Mon 29 Apr The Biennial QLD Sappers' Reunion will take place immediately following Anzac Day 2024.	The commemoration will include anniversaries for Namibia (35 years), INTERFET (25 years), and 40 years since the 39 th Intake enlisted.
RA SIGS CERTA CITO 100. In 2025, RA Sigs will recognise its centenary year with events to commemorate 100 years of the Corps, reflecting on the past, present, and future.	Events will occur through the year by ARA/ARES Signals units across Australia. The culmination (Certa Cito 100) will be in Nov 2025. https://rasigs.org/?page_id=291

SPAASSM Collection

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tcmowfh3ulz8rr7/SPAASSM%20Index%20and%20Cover.pdf?dl=0>

May 2023 competition solution (SPAASSM Phi, Image 00487)

Q: "What's the difference in calibre of these two weapons?"

A: Our President, Keith Lowe, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner provided this detailed response.

"The gun to the top of the photo is a Vickers .303 medium machine gun. The .303 British round has a projectile diameter of .311 inch in the main, but some .312 inch also existed depending on the factory of production. The barrel minor diameter (over the rifling lands) is .303 inch thus giving the .303 calibre. The weapon in the lower part



of the photograph is an M60 GPMG in 7.62mm NATO. Projectile diameter is typically 7.82mm (.308 inch). Barrel minor diameter is 7.62mm (.300 inch). The designated calibre is 7.62mm NATO."

Thanks Keith.

There were 4 correct answers including Keith's above. Congratulations to the sender of the first correct answer, Peter Hutchinson, 26th Intake Fitter Maintenance. Your SPAASSM Collection USB has been mailed to you. Enjoy!



August 2023 competition

Q: How do we know this bus (left) was from the Army Apprentices School and what do the other symbols indicate? The first person to send the most correct answer to news@austarmyapprentice.org will win a copy of the SPAASSM Collection on USB.

Letters

Balcombe Grammar School ANZAC Service

From Cindy Waters, School Chaplain to Steve Doudle, 25th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, AAAA Secretary, and Barry Minster OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mechanic, Welfare Officer

"Good morning friends of Balcombe,

Thank you so much to all those who attended and shared in the Balcombe Grammar School ANZAC Service. We deeply value our connection with the former Balcombe Army Apprentices School and the students and staff dearly loved having you back in our midst after 3 years apart.



Please find attached some photos from the day.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the future. Kindest regards, Cindy”

[**Note:** Barry Minster’s Anzac Day chat to Balcombe Grammar School was in the [May 2023 Newsletter](#). Editor]



L-R (excluding the three students): Mick Botten, 33rd MM; Peter Williams, 27th VM; friend of Vivian Rake; Vivian Rake, Admin Civ Staff 67 – 83 Building Trades Wing; Steve Doudle, 25th VM, Association Secretary; Barry Minster OAM, 20th RM, Association Welfare Officer; Lutz Preusche, 27th ET; Neil Bennett, 13th VM; and Ross Patterson, Principal

Merchandise

AAAA Shop

For Merchandise enquiries, contact the Treasurer: merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org Shop:

<https://austarmyapprentice.org/shop/>

MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
DVDs <i>(images below)</i>	50 th Anniversary Albury Wodonga 1998	\$10.00	\$10.00
	60 th Anniversary 2008	\$10.00	\$10.00
	2013 Balcombe Commemoration	\$10.00	\$10.00
70th REUNION ITEMS	70 th Reunion stubby holder	\$5.00	\$5.00
	70 th Reunion photo card <i>(image below)</i>	\$16.50	\$3.50
	70 th Reunion cap	\$15.00	\$15.00
AAAA BADGED ITEMS	Baseball cap	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Car sticker	\$5.00	\$1.50
	Lapel badge	\$10.00	\$3.50
	Name badge <i>(to order, incl preferred (1st) name, & Intake/Class)</i>	\$16.50	\$3.50
	Tie	\$25.00	\$10.00
	Key ring <i>(when ordering, ask if a number you would like is available)</i>	\$20.00	\$3.50
PROMOTIONS	SPAASSM Collection USB wafer <i>(image below)</i>	\$25.00	\$10.00
	AAAA Name badge + 70 th Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA Name badge + AAAA Key ring	\$30.00	\$3.50
PLAQUES	AAAA Key Ring + 70 th Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
AAS BADGED ITEMS	AAS badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
	Cloth badge large (260 mm x 210 mm), Balcombe	\$25.00	\$3.50
	Cloth badge large (260 mm x 210 mm), Bonegilla	\$25.00	\$3.50
	Cloth badge small (100mm x 70mm)	\$20.00	\$3.50
	Flag (1800 mm x 900 mm)	\$175.00	\$14.00



MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
	Baseball cap	\$12.50	\$14.00
	Polo shirt (M, L, XL, 2XL,3XL, 4XL)	\$35.00	\$14.00
	Stubby holder	\$5.00	\$5.00
FACE MASK	With both AAAA and AAS badges	\$15.00	\$5.00
SKETCHES	Set of 8 Balcombe sketches (<u>2 sets left, contact the Treasurer</u>)	\$10.00	\$14.00

History

Army Apprentice College Chepstow, UK

Extracts below retrieved 17 May 2023 from <https://armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk/college-history/>

This year, 2023, marks 100 years since the beginning of the British Army's Apprentice Scheme. As we know, the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme was modelled on the British system, following some 25 years later. The extracts below appear similar to our own history in some ways (bolded).

*"At the beginning of the 1920's, there was growing concerns that a major depression was on the horizon, countries were still suffering the economic effect of WW1 and there were little monies left to train the workforce so an innovative approach was needed. This approach came in the form of a new facility to train young men within the Army, this gave a two-fold result, replacement soldiers for those lost during the War and **tradesmen to provide the technical skills required for the new mechanised Army**. This was the beginning of a new era and it started with The Central Training School for Boys at a temporary home at Buller Barracks in Aldershot, but work was required to facilitate this plan and so soldiers from the Royal Engineers supervised 500 workmen in clearing up the site and making preparations for the forthcoming changes.*

*Accommodated by No1 Corps Depot, RASC, based at Buller Barracks and under the command of Lt Col VTR Ford, DSO, The York and Lancaster Regiment, No1 Group, totalling 105 boys was formed as part of the Central Training School for Boys. They reported to Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on September 25th 1923, and this date became known as the official Foundation Day. However considerable difficulties became apparent, **little available workshop space, few stores or tools, some very wintery weather and, finally, an outbreak of an epidemic disease.***

After Christmas leave, No2 Group arrived in Aldershot and on the February 28th 1924, the School, now numbering 250 all ranks, departed its temporary accommodation and established itself at Beachley Camp, four miles from the market town of Chepstow in Monmouthshire."

*"Almost the final chapter in Beachley Camps history began in 1924 when the newly formed Army Technical School arrived from Aldershot to begin **training in Trades, Education and Military Skills ready after 3 years to join the Regular Army as highly skilled young men who were destined to become the future leaders of the new Army.***

*Beachley Camp remained an Apprentice Training Establishment **until 1994 when it was decided that there was no requirement for Boy Soldiers in the Army**. Throughout those 70 years changes took place, name changes, duration of Training and career development opportunities. Beachley Camp has played a very large part in the history of the local area and is still iconic in it's being. The Camp is still occupied by the Army and currently is Home to 1st Battalion Rifles, a fully operational unit with a proud record and also a very good friend to BOBA [Beachley Old Boys Association] and the Heritage Centre.*

*Perhaps not the correct manner in which to remember the Camp but **that fateful decision in 1992/1994 to dispense with Apprentice Training of Boy Soldiers has been shown to be an error, however those thousands of Boys that passed through the Beachley Gate are proud to have enjoyed the opportunity given them."***

[TAA Vol 3 Iss 2 May 2016](#) featured an article on the Army Apprentice National Memorial (UK). A current Website featuring the Memorial can be found here – <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/73217>



SPAASSM Collection photo

The photo below from the SPAASSM Collection appears to have been taken around 1956 to early 1958. LTCOL Ives, the CO, is seated second from the right.

If anyone believes they know when the photo was taken, who's in it, and why only one Apprentice appears to be seated in the front, I would be interested in hearing from you. [Editor]



SPAASSM Ph I, Image 01610

Timeline of events, Australian Army Apprentices Scheme and Schools, and the Australian Army Apprentices Association

This year also marks 75 years since the raising of the Army Apprentices School (AAS) at Balcombe, VIC on 2 August 1948. The timelines below show the major events that define the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme, the Army Apprentices Schools (AAS) at Balcombe and Bonegilla and their successors, events after the end of the Army Apprentice Scheme, and the formation and subsequent events of the AAAA.

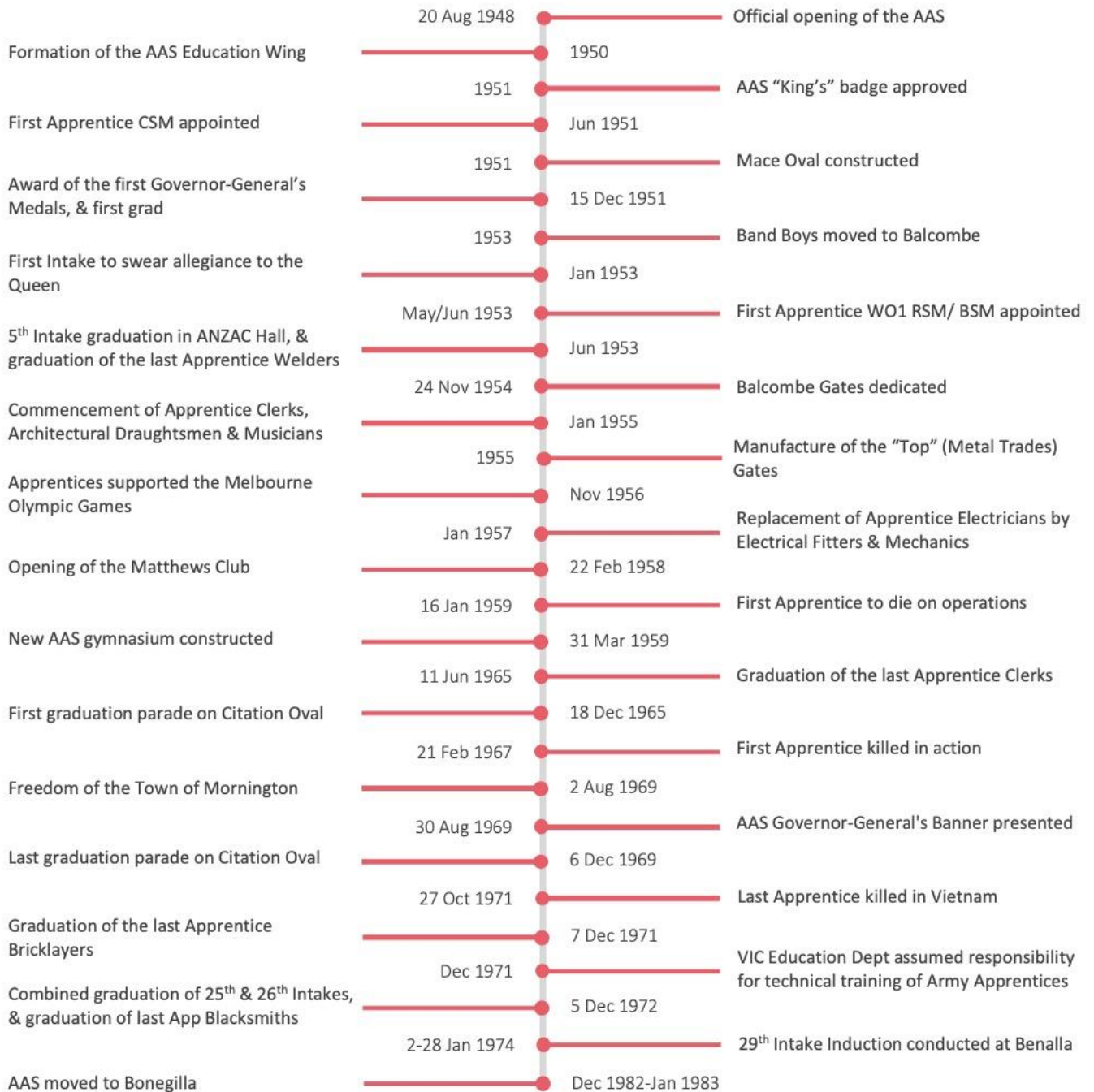
A more detailed brief history document for the AAAA Website is awaiting finalisation and approval.

ARMY APPRENTICE SCHEME





ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL BALCOMBE



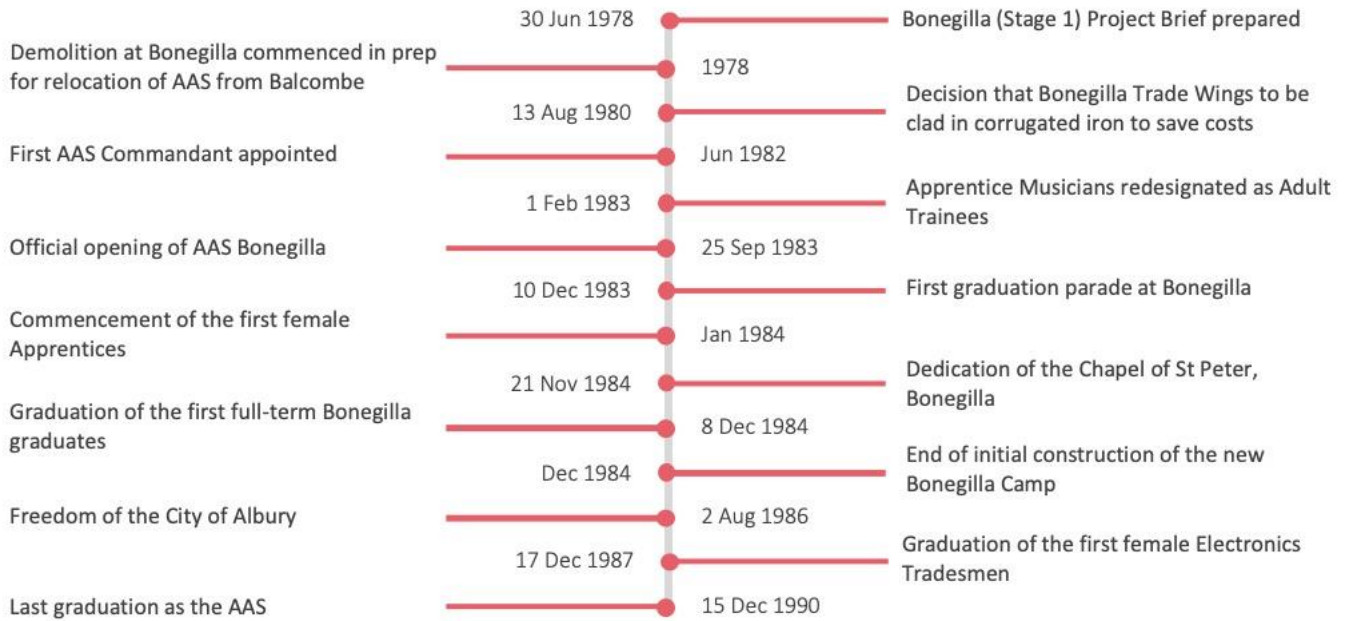
Headquarters (HQ) AAS Balcombe (SPAASSM Phi Image 04371)



HQ AAS Bonegilla (SPAASSM Phi Image 00664)



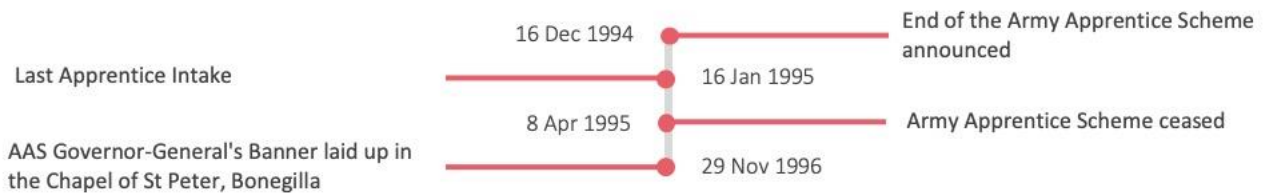
ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL BONEGILLA



ARMY COLLEGE OF TAFE



END OF THE ARMY APPRENTICE SCHEME



ARMY LOGISTIC TRAINING CENTRE (ALTC)





EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE ARMY APPRENTICE SCHEME



ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION



Major change to Defence trades training

Copied with permission from [Department of Defence Media Release 30 June 2023](#)

“Thousands of sailors, soldiers and aviators will be trained in technical trades under a five-year \$300 million contract with Wodonga TAFE.

In a significant change to trades training across Defence, the new Joint Technical Trades and Training Services contract supports the development of qualified and experienced Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in multiple locations across Australia.

More than 100 accredited and non-accredited courses will be delivered for the construction, engineering, mechanical, electrical and electronics trades, which will benefit over 2,000 students per year.

The new contract will also enable thousands of sailors, soldiers and aviators to further develop their skills in technical trades in locations where they work and live.

Navy’s Commodore of Training, John Stavridis, said the continued development of a highly-skilled workforce is critical to achieving workforce goals and supporting our people.



“For the first time, trade-specific training will be delivered flexibly where and when it is needed. It will expand to support the growth of the Australian Defence Force and importantly, will be rolled out across a number of locations to take the training to our people,” Commodore Stavridis said.

Army’s Director General of Training and Doctrine, Brigadier Glenn Ryan said the new partnership is an important step towards an integrated ADF.

“The partnership with TAFE Wodonga has been set up with the future in mind, focused on preparing our people for a rich and rewarding career in the ADF.”

Defence is committed to investing in ongoing education and skills development opportunities for our personnel throughout their careers.

The new contract will commence in November 2023.”

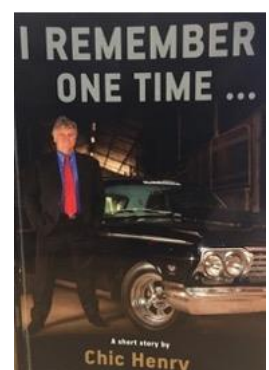
Book review

Not a real book review, but a review of what books “written by” or “about” Apprentices are available. Ed Draper, 22nd Intake Electrical Fitter recently posted on Facebook a photo of all the books he has, wondering if anyone has come across others “written by” or “about” Apprentices. Ed’s photo shows these nine books:



- * **FROM BALCOMBE TO BUTTERWORTH AND BEYOND** by Don Gray, 22nd Radio Mech
- * **THE COMPETITOR** by Frank O’Brien, 19th F&T & co-author Max Carmichael (*author of With Skill and Fighting – Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014*) – refer [TAA Feb 2023](#)
- * **A GREEN BAGGY SKIN** by Vincent Neale, 20th Plumber
- * **SHADOW WARRIOR FROM THE SAS TO AUSTALIA’S MOST WANTED** by David Everett (RIP), 33rd MM, with Kingsley Flett
- * **A Twist in the POGO’s Tale** by Derek Smith, 18th Clerk – refer [TAA Nov 2016](#) & [Nov 2021](#)
- * **From Boy To Soldier** by Sid Cheesman (RIP), 4th Vehicle Mechanic
- * **WALK TALL: with the 2nd Battalion 1st ARVN Regiment** by John (Jack) Peel, 14th F&T
- * **22nd Intake of Army Vehicle Mechanic Apprentices 1967-2017** by John Heafield, 22nd VM – refer [TAA Feb 2018](#)
- * **Vietnam – The WAR WITHIN : Australian, American, New Zealand** by Glen D Edwards

One addition to Ed’s list, from Mick Eaton, 19th Radio Mech is “**I Remember One Time**” : A Short Story by Chic Henry (19th Blacksmith), published in 2017.



Our Committee

<http://austarmyapprentice.org/about/committee/>

Patron..... MAJGEN Andrew Freeman AM (Retd), 40th Elec Fitter

Office-bearers

President Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T
Vice-president..... Greg Haggett, 40th P&G
Secretary Steve Doudle, 25th VM

Treasurer & Acting Richard Pike, 21st VM
Merchandise Officer



Committee Members

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Public Officer.....Ray Wilson, 15th Plumber

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.....Newsletter Editor
Member 2.....Bob Clarke, 22nd VM
Member 3.....Mick O’Donnell, 22nd Bricklayer

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AuditorGary Lancaster, 22nd F&T

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NTSteve Woolston 25th F&T
North Qld.....vacant
South Qld.....Brian Daley OAM, 14th VM,
.....Life Member
NSWRichard Pike, 21st VM
ACT.....Jeff Heron, 21st RM, Life Member

Heritage Officer..... vacant
Membership Sec Graeme Smail, 35th ET

Member 4..... Bill Amor, 20th F&T
Member 5..... John Culbert, 18th C&J
Member 6..... Wayne Davis, 50th Elec Fitter

Legal Adviser Rod Perkins, 24th F&T
Chaplain..... Rev Canon Alan Kelb OAM,
..... 25th F&T

Vic Metro..... Ed Buchan, 46th ET

Southern Vic..... vacant
Central Vic..... vacant

Northern Vic..... Rob Minato, 31st ET
Tas..... Steve Bramich, 23rd C&J
SA..... Michael Thompson, 26th VM

Contributions to The Apprentice About

The Apprentice About (TAA) is published quarterly (in February, May, August and November). Contributions are greatly appreciated – please email them to the Editor at news@austarmyapprentice.org or mail them to the address on the first page. Submissions close on the 15th of the month preceding each edition.

Disclaimer

Information, views and opinions expressed in “The Apprentice About” originate from many different sources and contributors throughout our membership. Please note that content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of the AAAA.

**SPAASSM Collection
earliest image**

This image (SPAASSM Ph I, Image 05482) is believed to be the earliest document in the SPAASSM Collection.

Archivally stored SPAASSM material originals, digital images on DVD, a catalogue written in MS ACCESS 2007, and accompanying documentation (the “AAAA Inc Historical Collection”) are stored at the Army Museum at Bandiana.

To purchase a USB wafer containing low resolution copies of all Project SPAASSM material, including an index, visit the [SHOP](#).

