

THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

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

PO BOX 374, NORTHBRIDGE, NSW 2063

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

PATRON: MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW FREEMAN AM

907

From the President, 17 Apr 2023

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

Again, it has been my responsibility to see that our Web-based Obituaries and Vale pages are updated and, regrettably, since I wrote my report for the February 2023 Newsletter, I have processed known recent death notices for another eight Apprentices plus another five earlier deaths that we have been advised of since my last report. I take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones during this time.

Lest We Forget

By the time this report is published, Anzac Day 2023 will have come and gone; however, I wish to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge Liz Fitzgibbon (40th Intake) for rallying the troops to participate in the Army Apprentice contingent at the Toowoomba Anzac Day March and Service. It was planned they would march behind our Association banner and a wreath would be laid at the main service on behalf of our Association. Many thanks for your efforts, Liz.

Whilst on Anzac Day, I understand a wreath, again on behalf of Army Apprentices, will be laid at Taree's main service, organised by Peter Cambrell (32nd Intake). Many thanks for your initiative, Peter.

Members, as you would be aware, the members of your Association's Committee all give of their time voluntarily with some positions requiring much more time than others. Of your current Committee's 13 occupied positions (Heritage Officer position currently vacant) only four are occupied by members under 70 years of age, with one due to turn 70 early next year.

I appreciate many of our younger members may not have time due to work commitments; however, when I review the Membership database, there are many of you who fall into the younger bracket who claim they are retired, so can I appeal to all younger members to please give serious consideration to making yourselves available to stand for your Association's Committee. The Association's longevity is in your hands – not us oldies.

Our Australian Army Apprentices Memorial at Bandiana was, when developed, constructed and dedicated on consecrated ground, supposed to be a place for those Apprentices and or their families who wished on their death to have their cremated remains interred at the Memorial. It is my understanding the remains of three Apprentices have been interred there, the first being Corporal George Haynes, 21st Intake who was placed in what was the rose bed (roses replaced with small conifers) on the left facing the Memorial. Regrettably we do not have any records of any others, so I appeal to all who have any information of others who are now at rest at our Memorial to please contact me at president@austarmyapprentice.org. We currently have an impasse with authorities at Bandiana which is preventing further remains being interred there, so any information anyone can provide will greatly assist in furthering our negotiations.

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



Vale 242578 GAMBLE, John Hedley (Jack), 4th Intake Carpenter and Joiner

PS. It is with great sadness that I advise our dear friend from the 4th Intake, 90-year-old Jack GAMBLE passed away at 1000 hrs today (28 April 2023) in the John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle) after a short illness. Jack was an avid supporter of our Association, and I am sure will be remembered by many particularly for his poetry prowess. Rest in Peace Jack.

Vietnam War Commemorative Medallion and Certificate

To acknowledge the 50th anniversary of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War, DVA will produce a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration, which will be made available to every living veteran, widows of veterans and other family members of veterans of the Vietnam War. Please note that only one medallion is available per Vietnam War veteran. The medallion will be presented in a display case and will include a card that explains the design and contains a brief expression of thanks. More information is available from [DVA here](#).

Applications can be made online at National Mail & Marketing through this link [[Medallion Application](#)].

If you are having difficulties with your application and require assistance, please phone 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) between 9am and 5pm AEST Monday to Friday and when prompted say the word ‘medallions’.

Article courtesy of DVA.

Apprentices in the news

Graham SHOESMITH, 24th Intake Plumber, Australia Day Local Hero for Kentish Council

On Australia Day 2023, Graham was presented a Local Hero Award for Kentish Council (Tasmania) by Mayor Kate Haberle for his volunteering efforts in the local community. Visitors to the Sheffield Steam & Heritage Centre at Sheffield may come across Graham in his favourite role of driving the steam locomotives. See <https://www.sheffieldsteam.com.au> for more information.

Graham reported, “When my wife and I moved to Tasmania, I became very involved with the local tourist railway. I started studying for my steam driver’s ticket and after about a year I qualified to drive the 2 ft gauge steam locomotive. I also took on the job of being the club’s treasurer and have done that for five years. I was also a member of the local volunteer fire brigade until my health intervened. I’m also the treasurer for our local community hall. My main focus now is the smaller 7¼ inch miniature railway and I am currently building two locomotives – one steam and the other petrol powered. There are never enough hours in the day!”



Above (L-R): Australia Day Ambassador Anthony Hart, Graham Shoemith & Mayor Haberle

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Apprentices in the news (contd)

Sean O'Boyle AM (Sean THORNE, 34th Intake Musician)

By Jeff Heron, 21st Intake Radio Mechanic, Newsletter Editor

A Facebook post (Australian Army Apprentices Association group) in Feb 2023 by Sean O'Boyle indicated that he was in London, conducting the BBC Concert Orchestra. As there is no Sean O'Boyle in the Association's official nominal roll, I asked Sean if he had enlisted as Sean Thorne, 34th Intake Musician – he had!

Sean's extensive biographical details can be readily found on the Internet and on Facebook, so below is a brief summary. Born in the UK, he came to Australia at an early age, enlisting as an Apprentice Musician in January 1979, graduating to AABC in December 1980.

Before his initial enlistment period was completed, he signed on so he could participate in the Bicentennial Tattoo. Sean was then recruited by the Victoria Police, serving for a couple of years, including starting in a rock band.

His musical career really took off in 1993 when he became the Music Director for Warner Bros theme parks, based in Queensland. Concerts for the ABC, and many recordings from kids to country to jazz to symphonic repertoire led him to conduct the Queensland Symphony and then other orchestras in Australia, Berlin, UK, North America, and New Zealand.

Just prior to 2000, Sean wrote operas for Opera Queensland, toured Europe with the Queensland Ballet, toured England with James Morrison, and worked with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

In 2000, he composed the ABC's broadcast theme for the Sydney Olympics, and which was subsequently performed for the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the 2004 Olympics in Athens. In 2009 Sean wrote and arranged music for "The Ashes".

Sean was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2015. In 2017, he was appointed Artistic Director, Music at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

With Covid-19 interrupting everyone's lives in 2020, Sean was in lockdown in London, Melbourne and Brisbane, but having the opportunity to work as Resident Creative Artist in the Lismore Conservatorium. He returned to London, where he worked with the BBC before recently returning to Australia.

He will be the conductor for the 2023 Education Queensland Creative Generations (CGEN).



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.



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 historic entries.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
27	1204058	Geoffrey William HUNTER	Fitter Maintenance	24 Feb 2022
13	18618	Norman William HUSSEY	Fitter and Turner	Jun 2022
17	342906	Kerry Laurence STUART	Electrical Mechanic	21 Nov 2022
4	242590	Brian Michael McAULEY	Telecom Mechanic	27 Jan 2023
18	18844	Geoffrey John WILLIAMS	Vehicle Mechanic	14 Feb 2023
34	321544	Joseph Anthony DEVLIN	Electronics Tradesman	15 Feb 2023
9	18549	Alan Bennett PILLING	Fitter and Turner	20 Feb 2023
5	242616	James Clinton MORRISON	Vehicle Mechanic	4 Mar 2023
24	219199	Peter Gregory HYDE	Electrical Mechanic	6 Mar 2023
3	48505	Ian Edward COULTER	Electrician	8 Mar 2023
46	557346	Paul Gerard MILLER	Motor Mechanic	16 Apr 2023
4	242578	John Hedley (Jack) GAMBLE	Carpenter and Joiner	28 Apr 2023

From the summary below of the Vale records held by the Association, it may be deduced that the records aren't as accurate as we would like. You can easily check the list for any Apprentices you are aware of who have passed away by accessing the AAAA Website Members section at https://austarmyapprentice.org/vale_list/. Anyone with information to fill any gaps is asked to please contact us.

Intakes	Enlisted	Deceased	Surviving
1	63	40	23
2	80	35	45
3	64	38	26
4	62	33	29
5	46	23	23
6	86	38	48
7	198	89	109
8	148	64	84
9	160	57	103
10	179	60	119
11	164	58	106
12	124	44	80
13	143	42	101
14	170	53	117
15	119	30	89
16	118	24	94
17	168	42	126
18	187	37	150
19	190	37	153
20	192	42	150
21	180	21	159
22	175	27	148
23	166	23	143
24	184	29	155
25	184	26	158

Intakes	Enlisted	Deceased	Surviving
26	223	25	198
27	267	29	238
28	310	29	281
29	113	8	105
30	247	20	227
31	260	17	243
32	253	6	247
33	274	22	252
34	254	11	243
35	274	14	260
36	267	14	253
37	306	5	301
38	298	10	288
39	261	7	254
40	263	8	255
41	211	7	204
42	191	1	190
43	241	7	234
44	248	6	242
45	247	4	243
46	263	6	257
47	178	3	175
48	185	2	183
49	113	5	108
50	112	2	110
Totals	9409	1280	8129



Vale Colonel David Robert LAWRENCE AM, 28 March 1936 – 15 March 2023

A well-respected Army officer, Colonel David Robert Lawrence AM was the first Commandant of the Army Apprentices School (AAS) from June 1982 until 1984.

Colonel Lawrence was educated at Melbourne Grammar School from 1946 to 1953. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School in 1959 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC). He served with 1st Armoured Regiment, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers, 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry, and 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse. He completed a tour of Vietnam from December 1968 to December 1969 as a Temporary Captain in A and B Squadrons 3rd Cavalry Regiment before being posted to the RAAC Directorate on his return to Australia. He attended Staff College in 1972 and was then posted as OC of an independent cavalry squadron. He was an exchange instructor at the US Army Armor School at Fort Knox from 1975 and then served as a member of the Directing Staff at the Australian Staff College.

He assumed command of the AAS in January 1981, and guided the move of the School from Balcombe to Bonegilla. In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1984, David became a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division for service as the Commandant of the AAS. After his four years at the AAS, David was appointed Assistant Commander 3rd Division. He retired in 1991. He was President of the Fort Queenscliff Museum from 1997 – 2009 and then Patron from 2009 until his death.

David was farewelled at a service at St George's Anglican Church, Queenscliff on 29 March 2023 and is buried at the Queenscliff Cemetery, Pt Lonsdale. He is survived by his wife Val, three children, son-in-law, and two grandchildren and their partners.



From the booklet The Official Opening of Latchford Barracks, Sun 25 Sep 1983 (SPAASSM PhII Binder 03, Item 01)

Membership matters

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

As at 19 Apr 2023, the Association had 742 financial members made up of: 531 Ordinary Members, 203 Retired Members, 5 Associates and 3 Life Members.

1 Mar 2023 was a significant renewal date with 140 members renewing their membership. However there remains 49 members who have not renewed from Mar 23 to date and an additional few whose membership has lapsed to date in Apr. **Can I ask that if you are unsure of your membership status that you go and logon to the member portal and take a look.** It would be a shame to see you lapse.

If you have any issues with the process, then please reach out and I'd be more than happy to help you.

If you are unsure when your membership is due for renewal, or you have changed your contact details, please give me a call on 0438 212964 or email me at membership@austarmyapprentice.org so I can update the register.

Events reports

ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday, 22 March 2023

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

Thanks to those who were able to get to lunch today. It appears all had a good time, with the last leaving at about 1515.

The 25 attending included 17 Apprentices, 7 spouses and 1 son.





The 11 Odds and 6 Evens comprised:

- 6 x Radio Mechs/ETs
- 2 x Elec Fitters
- 4 x VMs
- 2 x F&Ts
- 2 x Plumbers, and
- 1 x C&J.

Intakes from the 2nd to the 33rd were represented.



Apologies to (L-R) Spike Wiseman, Bernie Sullivan, Ash Pagett, Kay Brewer & Herb Taylor, whose heads were cut off or hidden.

Come on you later intakes, we need some young blood to help bring the warries up to date!

Thanks to Harry Cole who generously donated half a dozen bottles of wine, we raised \$135 which have been donated to the Association to assist with upkeep of the Memorial. The next lunch should be on 7 June.

Anzac Day chat to Balcombe Grammar School, 26 April 2023

By Barry Minster OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mechanic, AAAA Welfare Officer



Association representatives were: L-R: 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; and Neil Bennett, 13th VM

Last Anzac Day, Barry represented the Association in giving the address at Balcombe Grammar School on 26 April.

“Young men and young women, ladies and gentlemen.

I hope that you all know that ANZAC is short for “AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS” which came together in 1915 at the beginning of our involvement in World War One when the KIWI’s and the OZZIES fought under one command at Gallipoli in Turkey.

Anzac Day is an important day on the calendar for many reasons.

It marks the coming of age for Australia as a military force in the world; it also has become a day of remembrance for all of Australia to pause and reflect upon our status as a nation.

Being a part of the military and indeed I can claim to be an ANZAC, though not the original sort – my claim is that in 1970 I served on active duty with New Zealanders.

Today, I would like to speak about the similarities between school classmates and military training. While they may seem like two completely different worlds, they share some significant similarities.



Like the military, school classmates come from diverse backgrounds with different skills and talents. The variety of abilities and perspectives allow us to learn from each other, and work together in achieving a common goal.

Just as soldiers rely on their team members to achieve their goals, classmates rely on one another to succeed. We support each other in learning, help each other in group projects, and share knowledge that helps our peers grow.

Both classmates and soldiers understand the importance of respect and diversity. We learn to appreciate each other's differences and perspectives, which helps us to grow and become better people.

Long-term friendships with classmates go beyond just social connections. They are vital resources that enrich our lives and careers. Friends that we make at school can open doors of opportunity, provide valuable advice, and support us in our personal and professional pursuits.

Moreover, the friends we make in school often share social, cultural, and educational backgrounds similar to ours. These shared experiences create a bond that lasts a lifetime.

Furthermore, just as military training instils discipline and responsibility, the school teaches us self-discipline, time-management, and responsibility. We learn to manage our time efficiently, meet deadlines, and take responsibility for our actions.

In conclusion, while school and the military may seem different, they share many similarities. From teamwork to respect and responsibility, these similarities teach us valuable life lessons that we can carry throughout our lives. So, let us embrace these similar qualities and apply them to our lives to become better individuals.

Long may the memories of ANZAC and Balcombe Grammar survive and remain respected and valued."

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>
All Intakes Reunion , Merrylands RSL, 20 May 2023, 1130hrs start	Buffet lunch and drinks at members' cost, <u>Richard Pike, treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org</u>
28th Intake 50th Anniversary Reunion , Perth, 22-26 May 2023: * Tue 23 May, 1100hrs, Cockburn RSL Meet and greet, Sausage sizzle and bar open for 3 hrs, dress casual * Wed 24 May, 1200hrs, lunch, Gage Roads Brewery, dress casual * Thu 25 May, 1730hrs, Cockburn RSL, Reunion dinner, catered function, dress semi formal – neat casual.	<u>Email, jenneric8kins@gmail.com on behalf of Paul Prickett and Reunion Committee</u>
ACT Region Quarterly Lunch , Ainslie FC, Wed 7 Jun 2023	Please let me know if you intend to be there, <u>news@austarmyapprentice.org</u>
SE QLD Apprentice Reunion – open to Ex-Apprentices, their families, ex-members of staff and any others associated with Apprentices, Bulimba Bowls Club, Sat, 10 Jun 2023, 1100 – 1600	Sausage Sizzle at lunch or bring your own. There is a BBQ available for use. Drinks available at the bar. <u>RSVP to Brian Daley, 14th VM, 0412 721 761, bidailey14@gmail.com</u>



Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
<p>PLEASE NOTE: Brian has organised the SE QLD Reunion since 1999 with the support of his wife Barbara and, as he announced at last year's Reunion, the time has come for him to retire and hand over to other strong hands. He is calling for members to rally and take over running of the event, otherwise these reunions will cease. Perhaps some strong support groups such as the 30th or 40th could get together and take over, or any other interested Apprentices would be more than welcome. Brian is happy to assist and be involved in a minor way, if requested by those who might take on the role after this year.</p>	
<p>SA All Intake Reunion, Largs Bay RSL, Sat, 5 Aug 2023, 1200-1600</p>	<p><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></p>
<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; greater Albury Wodonga Area:</p> <p>Fri 20 Oct, 1600-2000 – Registration, Meet & Greet, Albury Entertainment Centre. 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>Sat 21 Oct, 1000 for 1100 start – Association AGM, Albury Entertainment Centre.</p> <p>Sat pm, 21 Oct – Latchford Barracks visit, details to follow.</p> <p>Sat 21 Oct, 1930 to 2300 – Reunion Dinner, Albury Entertainment Centre for 450 attendees. Seating on round tables (numbers per table TBC). Two courses 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>Sun 22 Oct, 1055 – Wreath Laying Service, Museum visit and BBQ, South Bandiana Memorial Park. Alcohol-free but soft drinks available. Parking arrangements and access to the military area to be advised. Dress: Respectable attire and enclosed footwear for the Museum.</p>	<div data-bbox="997 622 1380 855" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Association members who submitted an expression of interest in attending the Reunion have been invited to confirm their registration and pay by 31 May 2023. After then, registrations will be 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. A single registration fee covers all activities/events:</p> <p>Discounted Members – \$60.00 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>All other registrations – \$120.00 per person.</p> <p>events@austarmyapprentice.org</p>

Other associations, etc

Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
<p>Sailing ON Open Day, South of Perth Yacht Club, 20 May 23 10.00 – 13.00</p>	<p>Come and try Sailing or if you're already a member, Bring a Mate, https://mailchi.mp/8402fcb1f4c4/join-us-at-the-sailing-on-open-day-on-saturday-20-may, www.sailingonwa.org.au</p>
<p>RAEME Association Qld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * RAQ Darling Downs Luncheons, Toowoomba, Sun, 11 Jun 2023, 10 Sep 2023, 26 Nov 2023 * RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion, Brisbane, Sun, 20 Aug 2023 * Gold Coast, AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach, Sat, 26 Aug 2023 * Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore RSL, Sat, 30 Sep 2023 	<div data-bbox="1061 1758 1252 1971" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events</p>



Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
RAEME Association ACT: * Informal mixed lunch, Ainslie Football Club, Fridays, 5 May 23, 1230 * Informal drinks, Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, Tuesdays, 30 May, 27 Jun 23, 1930 * “Spanner Club”, Kingston Hotel, Fridays, 2 Jun 23, 1600	*Other venues will be advised as required. https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php For details, visit the ACT RAEME Association Website: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events Secretary, cookie@raeme.com
Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV) , various, Thu 3 Aug 2023, 1100hr and various, and Fri 18 Aug 2023 (Vietnam Veterans’ Remembrance Day). On 3 Aug 2023, a service will be held at every grave or commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas. A dawn service will be held at the AVFNM with other services at 1100 local time across Australia and in Malaysia. The last service, at dusk, will be held in Scotland, where LCPL Robert Buchan is laid to rest with his Mum and Dad. A Commemorative Service will be televised by the ABC on 18 Aug 2023 from the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM) in Canberra.	2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training team (AATTV) in South Vietnam and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972. 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. More details at https://vvv.org.au
Veteran Games , 29 Sep – 2 Oct 2023, Gold Coast	https://veterangames.com
Central Victorian Veterans Group monthly get-together, Bendigo RSL Club Terrace, 1 st Thursday of the month, 1830	<u>Jonathan Crust, 48th Carpenter & Joiner via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia’s Youth</u>
HQ 1ATF LAD Vietnam. Seeking missing members of the first HQ 1 ATF LAD who served in 1966/67.	<u>Maurice Barclay, mauricebarclay5@qmail.com</u>
50th Anniversary of building Lord Howe Island Airport, 2024 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 Howe Island Airport was built. This is also being advertised through Corps channels and Defence-related journals. Pass this on to non-Appies who were involved.	To celebrate the 50 th Anniversary, organisers are putting together a nominal roll to plan and organise a reunion. If you or anyone you know was involved, please contact <u>gary.barker3@bigpond.com</u> . This will get you added to the roll and keep you in the loop on further developments. <u>From Facebook, Win Coles, 23rd Radio Mech, 14 Oct 2021</u>
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. <u>https://rasigs.org/?page_id=291</u>
Holdfast Reunion 2024, Townsville, Fri 26 to Mon 29 Apr 2024 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.

SPAASSM Collection

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

February 2023 competition solution

Q: “In the History section of this edition of TAA, Don Hughes quotes “*Facimus et Frangimus*”. What does this mean and what was the context in which it was used?”

A: “*We make and we break*”. The context was Don Hughes’ history article about brickies. His article is from the past, as is the use of the motto “*Facimus et Frangimus*”, which was the original motto of the Australian Engineer, adopted at Federation and appearing on the RAE hat badge up until 1947. It now only appears on the Corps Cipher. The RAE corps motto is now “*Follow the Sapper*”, which was coined during the Crimean War (1854-56).



The Engineers' flaming grenade collar badge has "UBIQUE", and the RAE hat badge has "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE".

There were two mostly correct answers, although both lacked some of the detail in the "context" being looked for. Harry Henderson, 21st Intake Radio Mechanic was first – congratulations Harry, your SPAASSM Collection USB has been mailed to you. Enjoy!

May 2023 competition

Q: What's the difference in calibre of these two weapons (right)?

The first person to send the most correct answer to news@austarmyapprentice.org will win a copy of the SPAASSM Collection on USB.

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



Letters to the Editor

Vale Geoff Hawker

From Geoff Grey, 36th Intake Musician

"Hi Jeff,

Thanks for another cracking read. I'm sorry to learn of the passing of Geoff Hawker – a true gentleman who could light up a room. I was always delighted to have a chat with Geoff at the ACT Appy lunches.

At my request, Geoff was kind enough to take time at the Appy 70th reunion in Canberra to talk to the assembled 36th mob who were, like me, delighted to hear stories from this 1st class legend.

Kind regards, Geoff Grey (36th Muso)"

Articles for TAA

Don Hughes, 29th Intake Carpenter & Joiner

"Thank you Jeff,

... I couldn't get my link to open but was able to read it on social media. You have to excuse me, and remember, I am a last century Chippy!

From time to time I produce articles that may be suitable for [T]AA. I will continue to send anything I think may be suitable.

Warmest regards, Don"

Thanks Don. We look forward to your articles. [Editor]

Bed patches and "the Millar Bridge"

From Kev Bailey, 8th Intake Vehicle Mechanic

A letter from Kev Bailey, 8th VM included a couple of excellent photos. The first (below) illustrates how his intake were required to set up their bed patch every day, unless they were duty company or support company. Kev isn't sure how long this tradition continued after he graduated in 1956. Note the .303 rifle, the beautifully "blancoed" sling, bayonet frog, anklets, webbing, and water bottle carrier, the footwear under the bed and, best of all, the excellent [stretcher] bed. It appears the mattress is folded up under the bedspread. Luxury!

The second photo below is one Kev took himself in 1960 when he was with the 28th Infantry Brigade Group LAD in Taiping, Malaysia. He transferred to the LAD after 3 Bn returned to Australia. "At the time the Brits were talking



about air portability, getting equipment across obstacles without using heavy bridging equipment. Our late historian [Past Trustee] Major Fred Millar was the BEME at the time at HQ 28 Inf Bde Gp in Taiping.

He came up with the idea of casting wire rope sheeves to suit various equipment and he tested it on this Mark II Landrover. You could remove the wheel nuts and fit the sheeve with the vehicle in situ. Major Millar drove the vehicle himself.



As you can see the wire ropes were slightly lower than the vehicle and were tensioned with hand winches. The test was a success, I don't think the idea was taken up by the Brits."

Thank you, Kev, great photos!

[Here are two other Millar Bridge photos sourced from Fred Millar himself. Editor]



Merchandise

AAAA Shop

For Merchandise enquiries, contact the Treasurer: merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org Shop: <https://austarmyapprentice.org/shop/>

MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
DVDs (images below)	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



MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
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 (<u>to order, incl preferred (1st) name, & Intake/Class</u>)	\$16.50	\$3.50
	Tie	\$25.00	\$10.00
	Key ring (<u>when ordering, ask if a number you would like is available</u>)	\$20.00	\$3.50
	SPAASSM Collection USB wafer (<i>image below</i>)	\$25.00	\$10.00
PROMOTIONS	AAAA Name badge + 70 th Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA Name badge + AAAA Key ring	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA Key Ring + 70 th Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
PLAQUES	AAAA badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
	AAS badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
AAS BADGED ITEMS	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
	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

DVDs, photo card and USB wafer (see items above)



Balcombe Commemoration DVD, 60th Anniversary DVD, 50th Anniversary DVD, 70th Reunion photo card, and SPAASSM Collection USB wafer

RAEME ground trades restructured – DFRT determination

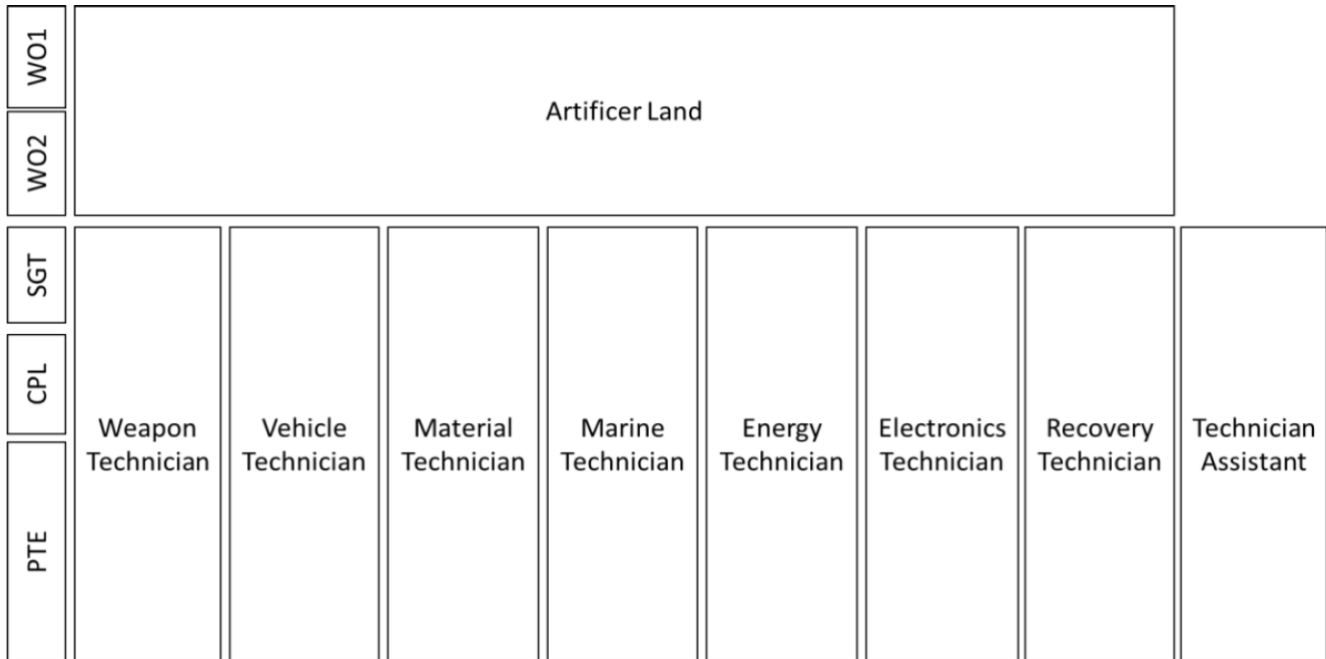
In the [May 2022 edition of TAA](#), it was reported that some trade innovations were being introduced in response to the “new equipment acquisitions and technologies exploited ... with the need for Australia to invest more into Defence than in preceding decades.”

“The DFRT last reviewed RAEME Ground Trades in 2006, and with the introduction of the Graded Other Ranks Pay Structure (GORPS) in 2008, the work of RAEME employment categories has evolved in qualifications, range of skills, depth of knowledge, range of actions, complexity of actions and complexity of environment.



The restructure, effective 11 May 2023, renames all base trades as ‘technicians’, introduces two new employment categories [*Marine Technician and Technician Assistant*], and provides the Army, and wider ADF, with a more contemporary and effective electrical and mechanical engineering capability and agree the restructure into a single pathway.”

Article courtesy of DFRT. More information, including the illustration below is [available here](#).



History

The mighty Chinook

Image and article courtesy of Defence via RAQ Friday Files



The Australian War Memorial has revealed the first glimpse of its new galleries, with an Australian Chinook revealed as one of the new items that visitors will see.

Newly appointed Chair of the Memorial, Mr Kim Beazley, described the heavy-lift helicopter as “an essential asset to the international community’s efforts to create security in Afghanistan”.

The Chinook will feature in the AWM’s new Anzac Hall, which is scheduled to open in late 2025, where it will join a number of Large Technology Objects including the much-loved G for George Lancaster Bomber.

Learn more: <https://www.awm.gov.au/media/press-releases/australian-war-memorials-new-galleries-take-flight>

Women in Uniform – Army Museum South Qld – Victoria Barracks Brisbane, 24 Feb 2023 – 6 Dec 2023

Copied from RAQ Friday Files 10 Mar 2023

Showcasing the rich history of women serving in the Army in Queensland from 1899– 2023, with snapshots dating from nurses volunteering during the Boer War, through all campaigns where Australians have served. Today, women are integral to the Australian Army’s capability.

This exhibition covers the women who served, their training and military life.



Exhibition and displays: The 1864 Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace

Highlights: Original uniforms, artefacts, photographs and figures.

Admission is free and you will be treated to a guided barracks tour, the exhibition, morning tea, a souvenir booklet and a group photo.

Bookings are essential. Visit the Army Museum Queensland Website at

<https://www.armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au/booknow>; or phone 0429 954 663; or email info@armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au

Balcombe Building Trades Wing rainwater heads

In May last year (TAA Vol 5 Iss 5), there was an article about rainwater head emblems from Balcombe. Norm Tyrrell, 26th Carpenter & Joiner, in a letter to the Editor wrote, *"Hi, I am seeking information (and any old photos) on the Balcombe Building Trades wing, cast lead emblems that were affixed to three rainwater heads in the Plumbers workshop."* The first image below accompanied Norm's letter.

The second image of a rainwater head at SME was sent in by Chris Moon, 32nd Carpenter & Joiner. The label reads, *"THIS RAINWATER HEAD was retrieved from building trades wing A.A.S. BALCOMBE in 1982 before A.A.S. was demolished and relocated to Latchford Barracks Bonegilla."*

The third image is of the rainwater head that can be seen in the Apprentices Corner at the Army Museum Bandiana. This is possibly the one that (according to Norm) *"went to the Building Trades Wing at Bonegilla"*.



FRANKO'S Rail Tours of VIETNAM

See <https://frankosvietnam.com/?id=31> for details.

Conducted by Frank O'Brien, 19th Intake Fitter & Turner. As at 19 Apr 2023, the only tours remaining this year were: 7-24 Sep, 28 Sep-15 Oct and 19 Oct-05 Nov.

PS: *"After 30 years, 2023 will be my last year on the train ... come join me – I'm planning to make it the Best Year yet ... the most memorable!"*



Goorambat Veterans Retreat

By Barry Minster OAM, 20th Radio Mechanic, AAAA Welfare Officer

On the weekend of 10 – 12 February, a call-out for assistance was answered by 12 veterans and their partners. The owner of the Goorambat Primary School – former career soldier Phil and his wife Jo – purchased this enchanting building in 2017. Since then, a remarkable change has been in progress.

Now the main classrooms are breakout spaces for meeting or just to sit and relax whilst several standalone modern huts have been sourced and are fitted for couples to sleep in. A modern kitchen provides everyone with facilities for cooking and there is also ample space on the 4-acre [1.6 ha] block for caravans and camper vans with power for those who need it.

The volunteers over that weekend were put to work painting, scraping and generally fitting out various areas making the venue veteran ready.



Jeff Hughes, 25th VM



Trevor Rice, 25th VM



Neil Siddall, 27th VM



Peter Norman 32nd F&T & Phil Edwards 27th ET



Trevor Allen 40th MM



Bob Stone 22nd VM

I encourage anyone looking for a short break away to get in touch with Phil thru the usual methods. Email: email@veteransretreat.com.au, Phone: 03 5764 1468 or via their Web page: www.veteransretreat.com.au Address: 21 Trewin Rd, Goorambat, VIC 3725

Goorambat features a Connection & Reconnection Outreach Program, where you can join other veterans on the 4th Friday of each month, share experiences, get advocacy updates, make new friends, or meet up with old mates, and get free tea or coffee. [Goorambat Veterans Retreat has featured in *The Apprentice About: Vol 5, Iss 5, May 2022 and Iss 6, Aug 2022. Editor*]



Our Committee

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

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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.

Use of the word “Anzac”

One only has to look at a lot of the social media sites, newspapers, magazines and even “official” documents, to see that many people aren’t aware of the correct usage of the word “Anzac” vs the initialism “ANZAC”.

The DVA Website states “*The Protection of Word ‘Anzac’ Regulations 1921 (Cth) (the Regulations) broadly state that to use the word ‘Anzac’ (or any word resembling the word ‘Anzac’) in an official or corporate manner, permission from the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs is required. The Use of the Word Anzac Guidelines (the Guidelines) associated with the Regulations can be found here. <https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/guidelines-use-of-the-word-anzac-nov22.pdf>*”

But that doesn’t tell us whether we should use “ANZAC” or “Anzac”. From the DVA “VETAFFAIRS” newspaper, Vol 39 No 1 April 2023, we learn that “*Government/DVA policy is to spell the word ‘Anzac’ with only a capital A in most instances ... ANZAC has become a word, just as QANTAS has become Qantas – so ‘Anzac Day’, ‘Anzac biscuit’, ‘Anzac tradition’.* However we still refer to the corps itself as ANZAC.”