

THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

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

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PATRON: MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW FREEMAN AM

907

From the President, 11 January 2023

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

Members, I appreciate it will be February by the time this note is published but in opening may I wish you all the very best for 2023 and thank you to the few who took the time to acknowledge the Season's Greetings email sent just prior to Christmas. It is appreciated.

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 November 2022 Newsletter, I have processed known death notices for another 13 Apprentices, some of whom I had known personally. I take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences to all the families who have lost a loved one during what should normally be a more joyous time.

Lest We Forget

February is also the month for your Committee's first meeting for 2023. On this occasion it will be held at The Army Museum Conference Room Bandiana with the emphasis being finalising arrangements for the 75th Anniversary Reunion. I expect more news of this event will be published shortly after the meeting.

Since early 2020 we have used a bulk email service "Mailchimp" to facilitate our emails to you. Prior to moving to this service, it was a time consuming and tedious process to email our membership en mass. Unfortunately, there are a few members who have unsubscribed to this service or have email addresses that frequently bounce. In coming weeks, we will write to each of those concerned to invite them to resubscribe but unfortunately even if they request that we do it for them, we are unable to do so.

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

Medal for National Emergencies

From Ed Zielinski, 23rd Intake Vehicle Mechanic

Ed Zielinski, 23rd Intake Vehicle Mechanic is interested in knowing how many Navy, Army and Air Force members took part/attended duties in Darwin after Cyclone Tracy in December 1974. Ed has been trying to get Government recognition for a Medal and award for all those [who] helped after [one of] the worst disaster[s] in Australia, "so far falling on deaf ears". If you want to talk to Ed about this, email him on ezielinski@penske.com.au

Note: "In 2011, the National Emergency Medal was introduced to recognise service in response to nationally-significant emergencies, which must be declared, following a recommendation from the Prime Minister, by the Governor-General under the National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011. The Medal has limited retrospectivity and the appropriateness of this decision has been considered a number of times over the years since its introduction. As it occurred in 1974, the Medal Committee has no authority to consider Cyclone Tracy as a nationally-significant emergency as it was not within the three-year window." [Ed]



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Nuclear test veterans’ commemorative service medal

Australian nuclear test veterans and scientists involved in the British nuclear tests in Australia 70 years ago will receive a medal to honour their service.

A British Government press release last November announced that “A new medal has been awarded to veterans of Britain’s nuclear testing programme. ... to honour the significant contribution of veterans and civilian staff from across the Commonwealth ... who participated in, or were present at, the British or American nuclear tests at the Montebello Islands, Christmas Island, Malden Island and Maralinga & Emu Field, South Australia between 1952 and 1967 ... Veterans, their families and next of kin will need to apply for the medal, which will be free of charge. It is expected that the first awards of the medals will be made in 2023.”

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nuclear-test-veterans-to-receive-medal-as-event-remembers-their-service-70-years-on>

We know that a number of Apprentices were involved, and it is about time that this has occurred. We thank those who served in these tests for their service and look forward to seeing medals being worn very soon.

Apprentices in the news

MAJGEN Andrew Freeman AM, 40th Intake Electrical Fitter, Patron AAAA

Courtesy RAQ Friday Files, 20 January 2023

“Pictured L to R: Deputy Head of Mission Paul Myler, incoming Defence Attaché – Head of Australian Defence Staff RADM Ian Murray, Ambassador Arthur Sinodinos, outgoing Defence Attaché – Head of Australian Defence Staff MAJGEN Andrew Freeman

On 14 January 2023 we farewelled MAJGEN Andrew Freeman as he handed over the baton from his role as Australian Defence Attaché and Head of Australian Defence Staff in Washington to RADM Ian Murray.

The Embassy thanks MAJGEN Freeman for his dedication and significant contribution in enhancing the defence relationship between Australia and the United States and we wish him every success for the future.”



In an email, Andrew wrote that after 38 years, he plans to transition out of the Army in April. He added, “I am actually excited about my next chapter. I look forward to catching up in the coming months.” [Ed]



All Apprentices on the RAEME Association Queensland Executive Committee

Extracts from RAQ Friday Files 21 & 28 October, 4 November 2020

Peter (Pete) Matthews, 37th Intake Motor Mechanic, Chairman

Pete enlisted in 1982 and served for nine years in several units, including 3 Base Wksp and 6RAR, and including attachments to 1 Armd Regt and Melb Wksp, finishing up at 1 Base Wksp at Bulimba.

Discharging in 1991, he joined the RACQ as a Roadside Assistance Patrol. He held several management roles finishing as Head of Automotive Services, responsible for the strategic delivery of commercial products and services to RACQ members. He got to visit most places in Queensland, as well as supplier trips to Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

In 2019, Pete joined QFleet, which is a commercial business within the Queensland Government; his role has prime responsibility for their leasing customers' experience.

He has held several appointments within the RAQ, the first as Webmaster and most recently Deputy Chair, helping produce the weekly Friday Files newsletter and supporting the Executive. He was honoured to receive a Chairman's Award in 2015 and Honorary Life Membership of the Association in 2020.

Pete enjoys watching sports, is a long-standing Brisbane Lions Member, is married with two adult daughters, and lives on Brisbane's Northside.

Paul Gibbs CSM, 46th Intake Fitter & Turner, Deputy Chairman

Paul served in the Army for 25 years, finishing up as WO1.

On the Queen's Birthday in 2012, he was awarded the CSM, "For meritorious achievement as the Regimental Artificer Sergeant Major of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and ASLAV fleet improvements".

Paul has been a member of RAQ for over 20 years and assisted with the establishment of the Victoria Barracks Chapter of the RAEME Association Victoria.

He managed the data repository (contributions) for the Corps History Project and is the Social Media Admin for the RAEME Association National Facebook Group.

Michael "Mick" Patman, 46th Intake Fitter & Turner, Treasurer

"Mick is a life member of the RAQ and joins the executive committee as the Treasurer.

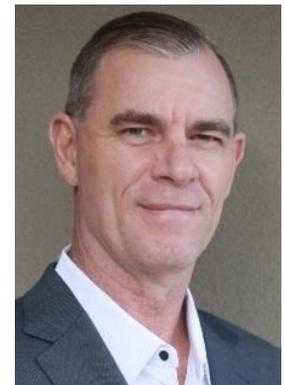
Mick joined the Army as a 46th intake Army Apprentice Fitter and Turner in Jan 91 and is currently the ASM of the 7th Brigade as a Tier Bravo Warrant Officer Class One.

This year [2022] completed 32 years of fulltime service where [he transitioned] to Army reserves in Jan 23 and [stepped] into the civilian work force.

Mick's military career has seen him work all over Australia with postings to Albury, Brisbane, Townsville, Darwin, Cairns and Canberra. He completed 8 years as a unit ASM to 51 FNQR, 1 CER and 1 Signal Regiment. He managed the Army's finest soldiers as the RAEME Career Advisor for 3 years. He has had many deployments including the Middle East, East Timor, The Solomon Islands and Border protection here in Australia. Mick was awarded a Silver Commendation for his work as the RAEME Career advisor.

As part of Mick's transition from full time Army, he sees being more involved with the RAQ as a way to keep involved with like-minded people and maintain his contact with the Corps.

He looks forward to interacting with members of the Association and being part of the future of the RAQ. He is honoured to be elected as Treasurer and will enjoy the challenges the role produces for him."





Ty Bodle, 44th Intake Motor Mechanic, Secretary

“Ty has been a life Subscriber for a number of years and assisted with a number of RAQ functions in past years.

Ty started his military service in 1989 as a 44th intake Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic.

After completing 13 years of service, it was time to focus on his family and discharged back to his home town of Brisbane Ty has served in the following postings after leaving AAS, 1 Base/Support Area workshop under the watchful eye of Ross Grant, 2CER, 6RAR, 3RAR para, 3BASB on promotion to corporal and finished with 10FSB on deployment.

Ty has been deployed to Bougainville on Op Bel-Isi while at 3BASB and later to East Timor under INTERFET and UNTAET, which he returned to just recently for a visit, discharging in 2001.

Ty is currently employed full time and has been at his current employer coming up 11 years, and has taken on the role of Secretary as he is passionate about the RAQ and ensuring the association continues to grow and support its members.”



Shaddrick James MARSH, 37th MM – Federation Star

From RAQ Friday Files, 9 December 2022

“Congratulations to MAJ Shad Marsh who was awarded his Federation Star after 40 years of service in the Australian Army on Wednesday 30 November 2022. Originally from WA, Shad initially joined the Army as a 37th Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic in January 1982. After serving 20+ years, Shad transferred to the reserves in Brisbane and was commissioned as a Captain, serving as Adjutant at 6RAR in 2010. After being promoted to Major, Shad was posted to Darwin and re-enlisted full time to serve as 2IC of 1CSSB. Shad was also farewelled from 1CSSB and is moving on to Canberra at the end of this year.



Shad has served on a number of Operational and Humanitarian deployments in Australia and Overseas.

Shad is a Member of the RAQ and former Secretary. On behalf of the RAQ, we congratulate Shad on his Federation Star and 40+ years of service.”

LTCOL Margaret Bester, MAJ Shad Marsh and COMD 1 BDE BRIG Nick Foxwell AM DSM presents MAJ Shad Marsh with a Federation Star

Gary SARGENT, 23rd Intake Electrical Fitter, RAQ Chairman's Award

From RAQ Friday Files, 9 December 2022

As part of the December 2022, RAEME 80th Birthday Celebrations, Gary Sargent, Honorary Life Member of RAEME Association Queensland (RAQ) received a Chairman's Award.

His citation reads:

“For his outstanding service to the RAEME Association Queensland as Secretary. Gary’s commitment and dedication over a long period has significantly contributed to the success of the Association and he is to be commended for his efforts.”





Noel TIPTON, 28th Intake Carpenter and Joiner, 50 years' service

From RAE Association Victoria Facebook Group, 18 January 2023

"CONGRATULATIONS NOEL TIPTON

On 18th January 1973 a 16 year old Noel Tipton joined the Australian Defence Force and he has now provided 50 years of loyal, dedicated and continuous service to the Army and his country.

Noel on behalf of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria and all sappers, congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

We are all very proud of you. UBIQUE, RAEAV"



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.

This edition's Vale summary is below. Thank you to all those who have provided details. If anyone has information to fill any gaps, or information of any other deceased Apprentices, please contact us.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
22	39220	Carl Axel NOBELIUS	Electrical Mechanic	3 Nov 2022
28	222803	Kevin Frank WHITE	Electronics Tradesman	4 Nov 2022
11	18593	Robert John FROST	Carpenter and Joiner	12 Nov 2022
24A	313592	Phillip Francis BUTTERFIELD	Musician	22 Nov 2022
23	39834	John William CLAPTON	Radio Mechanic	24 Nov 2022
13	64336	Dennis (Danny) Edward TUCKER	Vehicle Mechanic	26 Nov 2022
21	18960	Paul Joseph WEAVER	Vehicle Mechanic	28 Nov 2022
14	58709	Peter Graham ROSSER	Plumber	11 Oct 2022
20	58864	Lawrence Raymond REIGER	Radio Mechanic DNG	7 Dec 2022
27	56890	David (Spic) VALENTA	Fitter Maintenance	10 Dec 2022
21	48717	Geoffrey Neville (Tex) McPHERSON	Fitter and Turner	16 Dec 2022
8	58596	John Edward George ASHBY	Vehicle Mechanic (Graduated 9th)	17 Dec 2022
7	58565	John Austin HEPPELL	Electrician	21 Dec 2022
8	58583	Phillip James CLOVER	Telecom Mechanic	9 Jan 2023
1	5794	Geoffrey John HAWKER	Fitter and Turner	23 Jan 2023



Vale Kevin Frank WHITE, 28th Intake Electronics Tradesman

Details received from Adam West, RASigs National Committee

Kevin White passed away on 4 November 2022 and his funeral service was held on 10 November 2022. He served for over 20 years and below is his record of service. *“Kevin died too young with plenty of life left to enjoy.”*

Employment: Apprentice, Technician Electrical, Officer Cadet, Troop Commander, Instructor, Training Officer

Rank on discharge: Major

Postings and attachments:

Army Apprentices School (28 th Intake)	17/1/73	520 th Signal Troop	26/5/80
School of Signals (Trainee Strength)	6/12/75	135 th Signal Squadron	12/7/82
6 th Signal Regiment	17/2/76	2 nd Signal Regiment	15/1/85
594 th Signal Troop	13/1/77	School of Signals (Staff)	15/1/86
2 nd Signal Regiment	1/9/77	144 th Signal Squadron	31/1/88
Attached to 33 rd Supply Battalion	23/2/79 to 2/3/79	1 st Signal Regiment	18/12/89
Attached to 331 st Supply Battalion	18/5/79 to 25/5/79	6 th Signal Regiment	15/1/92
Attached to 4 th Signal Regiment	12/10/92 to 30/11/92	4 th Signal Regiment	1/1/93

Vale Geoffrey John HAWKER AM, 1st Intake Fitter and Turner

Some information from The RAEME Craftsman Number 15 1986

Born on 22 January 1932, Geoff Hawker enlisted as a 1st Intake Fitter and Turner in 1948. After graduation, he served in 14 units until he was commissioned in 1964. He served as an officer for 21 years in a broad range of 17 EME command and staff appointments before his retirement in Canberra. Amongst his postings, he served as ASM of Metal Trades Wing at AAS, was OC 1 FER Wksp, and ADC to DGEME.

“Until his retirement, he was the last serving member of the first intake of Army apprentices and he carried with him the loyalty, dedication, commonsense and energy that were the characteristics of many of the early apprentices.” Major Hawker’s achievements and services were recognised by the award of Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in 1984 *“for service to workshop equipment and facilities engineering in the Australian Army”*.

Geoff served in Vietnam with 17 Const Sqn Wksp from 19 May 1967 to 9 April 1968.

From a Facebook post by Ian Cook, RAEME, 24 Jan 2023

“Geoff was a 1st class Appy whose hand I was proud to shake on Anzac Day 2018 when over 700 Appys of all eras gathered at the Australian War Memorial for the School’s 70th anniversary. He was one of the gentlemen who laid the foundations upon which all tradesmen who followed stand.

Geoff’s wife, Margaret, advised that he passed away [23 Jan 2023] at Epworth Eastern Hospital in Melbourne where he had been fighting a combination of leukaemia, pneumonia, Covid and a Super Bug of some sort that antibiotics couldn’t fix.”



1st Intake Apprentices wearing their walking out dress (Geoff Hawker centre) (State Library VIC – John Jeffrey photographer)



BRIG AD Powell inspecting the 21st Birthday parade of 101 Fd Wksp, MAJ Geoff Hawker, ADC behind (RAEME Craftsman No 1 1978)



Geoff in Canberra September 2022 (Photo by Jeff Heron)



Events Reports

RAEME Corps Dinner, 2 November 2022, last serving Apprentices in the Corps

From Wayne Davis, 50th Intake Electrical Fitter, AAAA Committee Member



(L-R) Back row: WO1 Amir Tito (41st F&T), WO1 Brad Bargenquast (48th VM), WO1 Mal Goldner (46th VM)

Middle row: WO1 Mick Waters (42nd F&T), WO1 Mick Nolan (44th F&T), MAJ Carl Anderson (41st ET), WO1 Stephen Brett (41st VM), UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, WO1 Mick Frawley (28th VM), MAJ Cameron Willett (41st VM), WO2 Toby Bailey (50th F&T), COL Andy Adams (35th ET), WO1 Jake Donnelly (46th VM), UNKNOWN, WO1 Aaron Writer (44th F&T), CAPT Roger Smith (38th ET), WO1 Wayne Davis (50th EF), LTCOL Ross Thomas (48th ET)

Front row: WO2 Jason Ballard (42nd VM), WO1 Dean Goninan (43rd F&T), WO1 Mick Patman (46th F&T), WO1 Scott Collard (49th EF), WO1 Marcellin Chee (45th VM), WO1 Mark Warde (47th VM)

RAEME Association ACT Christmas get-together, Thursday 1 December 2022



RAEME Birthday in Canberra at the Kingston Hotel was celebrated by close to 50 serving and retired members of all ranks and vintages. Andrew Adams, 35th Intake ET, President addressed the group on Corps activities and the future, the Association, and the ACT Chapter.



ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday 14 December 2022

By Jeff Heron, 21st Radio Mechanic, Newsletter Editor

Xmas 2022 was celebrated slightly early by an excellent turnout of 23 Apprentices and 7 partners. Intakes 2, 7, 14, 14A, 15, 18, 19, 21 to 25, 27, 28, 32, 33, and 37 were represented (8 x RMs/ETs, 7 x MMs/VMS, 2 x Elec Fitters, 2 x C&Js, 2 x Musns, and 2 x Plumbers. A great selection of lucky door prizes, many donated, helped to make the day a success. Thank you to those who donated (Harry Cole 7th VM, Ed Jaskolski 28th ET, Kay (wife of Wal Brewer) 18th F&T, Ian Briggs 25th Elec Fitter, and Sharon (wife of Doc Chinner) 25th Elec Fitter. As a result, a total of \$127.05 has been donated to the Association.

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>
AAAA Committee Meeting, Army Museum Bandiana Conference Room, Saturday, 11 Feb 2023, 1030	secretary@austarmyapprentice.org
ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wed, 22 Mar 2023, 1200	Please let the Editor know if you intend to be there. news@austarmyapprentice.org
39 th Class Reunion-Anzac Day Weekend, Albury-Wodonga, Saturday-Wednesday, 22-26 Apr 2023: Sunday, Meet & Greet; Monday, tour Latchford Bks & N Bandiana; Tuesday, Dawn Service Latchford Bks TBC & Anzac Day March Wodonga; Wednesday, return home	Group discount negotiated with Lake Hume Resort, Facebook pages: 39 th Class Army Apprentices School, Army Apprentices are the cream of the Australian Youth, Army Apprentices School Bonegilla, Australian Army Apprentices Association [official], Facebook Messenger group “39th CLASS REUNION-ANZAC DAY WEEKEND 2023”, Jeff Wouters 39th C&J jeff@nortonhomes.com.au , or Andrew Clarke 39th F&T andrew26567@hotmail.com
SE QLD Apprentice Reunion, Bulimba, Sat 10 Jun 2023	
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]</u>
75 th Anniversary of the Commencement of Army Apprenticeships, Albury Wodonga, Fri-Sun, 20-22 Oct 2023, more details to follow	Program: Fri 20 Oct 23 – Registration and Meet and Greet, Sat – 21 Oct 23 – AGM and Reunion Dinner, Sun 22 Oct 23 – BBQ lunch. events@austarmyapprentice.org
 The 75 th Anniversary event also includes a commemoration of the 40 th Anniversary of the official opening of Latchford Barracks – 25 September 1983. <u>COL EW Latchford MBE MC</u>	COL EW Latchford MBE MC: joined the Victorian Militia in 1907, enlisted in the PMF in Aug 1910, attended the first PMF NCOs Course in Albury in 1911, was commissioned in 1916, was appointed CI of a Small Arms School, Randwick in 1942, supervised its transfer and expansion to the LHQ MMG School at Bonegilla, retired in 1949 after 39 years’ service in the PMF, and died in September 1962.



Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
75 th Anniversary of the Army Apprentice Scheme, Anzac Day Apprentices March, and The Goods Shed, Toowoomba, Tue, 25 Apr 2023, 0900-1800 The AAAA Banner has been booked for this event.	<u>Liz Fitzgibbon, 40th ET, via a Private Event on Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth</u> https://facebook.com/events/s/anzac-march-toowoomba-2023/581979123064766/

Other associations, etc

Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
RAEME Get Together, Bjelke-Petersen Dam, Thur 23 – Mon 27 Feb 2023	The annual camping and caravanning get together of past & present RAEME members, RAEME Qld Facebook Group
RAEME Association Qld functions: * RAQ NQ Get Together, TBA Townsville, Sat, 25 Feb 2023 * Darling Downs Lunch, Club Toowoomba, Sun, 12 Mar 2023 * Gold Coast, AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach Sat, 26 Apr 2023 * RAEME Reserve/CMF Reunion, Brisbane, TBA, Aug 2023 * Gold Coast, AEME SLSC Mermaid Beach, Sat, 26 Aug 2023 * Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore RSL, Sat, 30 Sep 2023	http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events
RAEME Association ACT: * “Spanner Club”, Kingston Hotel* Fridays, 3 Feb, 7 Apr, 2 Jun 2023, from 1600 * Informal Drinks, Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club, Tuesdays, 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 30 May, 27 Jun 2023, at 1930 * Anzac March and post-march, AWM (then Mercure Hotel Ainslie), Tue, 25 Apr 2023, 0930 * Informal Lunch, Ainslie Football Club, Fridays, 3 Mar, 5 May 2023, from 1230	*Other venues will be advised as required. https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php For event details, visit the ACT RAEME Association Website: https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events Secretary, cookie@raeme.com
RAEME Association VIC “Spanner Club”, Mail Exchange Hotel, second Friday of each month, from 10 Feb 2023, from 1600	Spanner Clubs are back on in the Melbourne CBD, hosted by the RAEME Association VIC, RAEME Facebook Group .
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. Maurice Barclay, mauricebarclay5@gmail.com
RAEME Get Together, Bjelke-Petersen Dam, 23 – 27 Feb 2023	Annual camping/caravanning get-together of past and present RAEME members, Facebook Group “RAEME Get Together 23/2 – 27/2 2023 – Bjelke-Petersen Dam
Annual Sapper Muster, RAE Association VIC, Oakleigh Depot, Sat, 4 Mar 2023, 1700	Hon Secretary, secretary@raevictoria.com
Sandford Bush Music Festival 2023, Sandford, VIC, Fri-Sun, 10-12 Mar 2023	Labour Day Long Weekend, Bush Ballads, Folk, Gospel, Celtic, Reggae, Bluegrass & Aussie Country music, tickets online (https://www.sandfordfestival.com/tickets/)
10 Term Regt Reunion (includes former members and those who were at Woolwich and 1 Watercraft Wksp), Hobart, 16 – 19 Mar 2023	Ralph McCloy, ralph_mccloy@hotmail.com
HQ and HQ Coy 1 ALSG, Broken Hill, NSW, 20 – 25 Mar 2023	Tony Brown, 0428 852 736, tr4950@optusnet.com.au
50 th Anniversary of building the 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,	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 gary.barker3@bigpond.com . This will get you added to



Event, Location, Day, Date, Time	Comments, <u>Contact</u>
RASVY, RASIGS, RAAOC, RAEME and AACC members, the Lord Howe Island Airport was built.	the roll and keep you in the loop on further developments. This is also being advertised through Corps channels and Defence-related journals. Pass this on to non-Appies who were involved. <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. https://rasigs.org/?page_id=291

SPAASSM Collection

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



SPAASSM Phase I Image 03954



A USB wafer containing low resolution copies of Project SPAASSM material may be purchased from the [SHOP](#).

November 2022 competition solution

Q: “Where are these guns located?” And, for interest, does anyone know when and why this photo was taken and is in the SPAASSM Collection?

A: Tower of London Forecourt, Gun Park or Wharf, adjacent to the White Tower and Tower Bridge.

Only two correct answers were received, the first from Shane Durdin, 43rd VM who gets the SPAASSM USB. We had no answers as to when and why the photo was taken and is in the Collection, so it remains a mystery.

Cannon have been on Tower Wharf for centuries, but numbers have been reduced over the years and only these two naval cannons and two large mortars remain.

(Image from Google Maps Dec 2022)

Various other guns can still be seen in the White Tower and around the Tower site. Tower guns are no longer used for salutes with more modern guns being brought in as required.

Many guns from the Tower were relocated in 1996 when the Royal Armouries moved to Leeds, and when the Artillery Museum outstation at Fort Nelson near Portsmouth was opened. (Source: Google).

February 2023 competition

“And now for something completely different” (from Monty Python). Instead of a SPAASSM Collection image this time, the question is:

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

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



Letters to the Editor

Appies doing OCTU courses

"Hi AAAA

The last newsletter included a story about Appies doing OCTU course and asked for others who had done this.

"Harry Cole, 7th Intake Vehicle Mechanic wondered how many "Apprentices would have attended an OCTU course after completing their 9 years in the Regular Army. I think there were possibly a few would have ventured into the CMF/ARes and attended an OCTU officers course."

Accordingly I advise that I have also done that.

I joined the ARES after completing my 9 years ARA (in RA Sigs). I then graduated from my ARES 5 Training Group (WA) course in 1976. I was commissioned Lieutenant, and posted as a platoon commander in 3Bn. RNSWR in Canberra.

I found that a very satisfying way to close out my Army service.

Regards, Greg Northover, 17th Radio Mechanic"

Membership status

"Hi Jeff

Thanks for the news letter a great read. I must be due for a membership renewal fairly soon.

Jock MULLEN", 24th Fitter & Turner

Note: Members can see their membership status on the Website. Simply login, then access <https://austarmyapprentice.org/membership-list/>, and then search for your name.

Merchandise

AAAA Shop

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

	MERCHANDISE ITEMS	PRICES	POSTAGE
DVDs	50 th Anniversary Albury Wodonga 1998 OR 60 th Anniversary 2008 OR 2013 Balcombe Commemoration	\$10.00	\$10.00
70th REUNION ITEMS	70 th Reunion stubby holder	\$5.00	\$5.00
	70 th Reunion photo card	\$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	\$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 OR AAS badge	Price increase	\$85.00
			\$14.00



MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
AAS BADGED ITEMS	Cloth badge large (260 mm x 210 mm) (Balcombe OR 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



History

35th Intake – two intakes?

From a Facebook post last October, in the Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth Group, in a comment by Mike Barry, 34th Intake Electronics Tradesman

Mike indicated in his comment that in 1980, the 35th Intake had two intakes. This was supposedly because of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and a third of the intake did not turn up. A later group (in March) arrived to complete the intake.

In the 1980 AAS Journal, the B Coy notes stated *"Immediately upon the completion of induction training, Cpl Smith marched out to the Main Q and was replaced by Cpl Steve Scott. At the same time we landed the arrival of a supplementary junior class."*

Is there anyone who was one of these later arrivals and can substantiate this?

I Wish I Had A Camera When

From RAQ Friday Files 28 October 2022

"Sometimes I'm glad there were no mobile phone cameras when I was a Crafty but there are times I wish I did have a camera handy.

For example, I wish I had a camera when I told angry WO2 G T that I hadn't read the dress manual as I was waiting for it to come out on video. I never knew that steam could literally come out of someone's ears but it would've made a great pic.

Finish this sentence: "I wish I had a camera when....." Ian McCookie

Funnystories@raeme.com



TALE OF TWO (and a half) BRICKIES

By Don Hughes, 29th Intake Carpenter & Joiner (Don was profiled in TAA Vol 2 Iss 5, Feb 2015 - Ed)

"Bricklaying is not a trade you naturally align with the military. However, the innate dexterity and precision of the bricklayer has played its role in the history of Australia.

This is the tale of two (and a half) Army Bricklayers, from differing ends of the military spectrum, who served their country with distinction. *"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times"* (Dickens p.983).



An Ancient Trade

Bricks dating back to 7000 BC have been found in the ancient city of Jericho in the Middle East. In the United Kingdom (UK) during the 11th century Roman bricks from the Roman British town of Verulamium (now St Albans, Hertfordshire) were reused in various new building projects. The first UK produced bricks were laid in the construction of the Coggeshall Abbey in Essex in 1190.

A general lack of stone and timber, particularly during the Tudor period in the 13th and 14th centuries, increased the popularity of bricks. Improved transportation, development of better mortars and the needs of large-scale civil engineering works during the industrial revolution added to this boom.

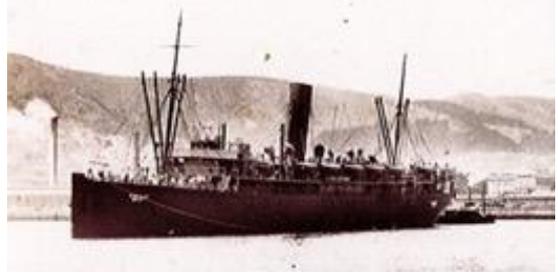
Throughout the 20th and into the 21st centuries, bricks continued to be a popular building material. British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill even used bricklaying as a relaxing hobby. During the construction of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games facilities a scarcity of bricklayers enabled them to earn one dollar per brick laid. A world record was established in 2014 by an American, Robert Boil, for laying 914 bricks in an hour.

Herbert Bailey - Family Man, Bricklayer & Sapper

At number 11 Gravel Hill Road, Henley-on-Thames, England, bricklayer Herbert Austin Bailey made a momentous decision for his family in 1911. They would migrate to a land of prosperity – Australia.

Born in 1873 to Silas Bailey (also a bricklayer) and Annie Austin from Oxfordshire, he married Ethel Sharp in 1896. Ethel's father, Caleb Sharp (1840-c1890), was a chalk/lime burner and had a limekiln in Theale UK. Throughout the 1800s most bricklayers burned their own lime to make mortar causing acrid fumes contributing to respiratory diseases.

Herbert set sail ahead of his family to Victoria on TSS Maunganui (her maiden voyage) in late 1911. Herbert prepared the way for his family initially renting a house in Middle Park and later Oakleigh so that Herbert could be near work sites for bricklaying (Hatfield p.1).



TSS Maunganui in 1916 on which Herbert Bailey migrated in 1911 (her maiden voyage) – supplied

Our Brickie Volunteers

Already a Private in G Company, 2nd Battalion at Broadmeadows, Herbert at age 44, enlisted (number 19636) as an engineer reinforcement ultimately taken on strength with the 15th Field Company, 5th Division, 1st Australian Imperial Force. He sailed from Sydney via the Panama Canal and Trinidad on the 15,000-ton coal-powered troopship HMAT Euripides arriving at Devonport in the UK on Boxing Day 1917.

As a military engineer (Sapper), Herbert trained at the Engineer's Training Camp at Brightlingsea in Essex. Completing his training, his draft moved by train on 12th April via Waterloo station then set sail from Southampton aboard Prince George. The reinforcements landed in Havre, France on 13 April 1918 and marched to Rouelles to join their new units (Hatfield p.1).

This was the beginning of the end for Germany. The way for an Allied offensive on the Amiens front in August, in which the Australian Corps would take a prominent part, made it clear to the German high command that there was little hope of victory and that their new objective must be to maintain a negotiating position for peace (McNicoll p. 142).

Typical Sapper Work in France

One field company historian records a change in the character of sapper work following the Battle of Amiens:

“Instead of settling down for a month or more at a time in a camp or bivouac, with a regular programme of work, a system for the supply of engineer stores, and no sign or hope of an end to the proceedings, the Company now commenced to experience conditions approximating those of open warfare, with troubles and discomforts all compensated for by victory, and at least a hope of peace to come.



That Company Head-quarters was established in twenty different places in the ensuing two months gives only a partial indication of the migrations of the sappers, as sections (Troops) developed a habit of moving independently, each complete with its own transport, and the Company was rarely united."

Sapper tasks also changed. Bridges, water supply, roads and signage became a priority. Trenches and wire were not needed, dugouts were searched for booby traps, then cleaned and repaired instead of constructing new ones. (McNicoll p.146)

The Hell of France

Herbert kept a personal diary. His diary brings alive the devastation and horrible deaths and injuries to both man and beast. It also highlights the destruction of buildings, villages, crops, and towns. From his more mature eyes, Herbert witnessed the shattering of the human spirit as a result of war. He often saw Germans, other allies, the French people, and his own comrades all suffering alike. Some irretrievably.

In a moment of reflection, Herbert writes:

"Honour and glory of war may be alright to read about in history, but to witness it is a far different matter. Horrible carnage and bloodshed; dead men lying everywhere in all attitudes. Shell holes, trenches, barbed wire entanglements, torn to shreds and rolled down by the tremendous weight of tanks or torn to shreds by gun fire. Gruesome sights present themselves everywhere, corpses are just strewn in all conditions". (Bailey p.43)

Being gassed in late 1918 Herbert eventually arrived back in Australia in August 1919. He was discharged a month later. Herbert returned to his family and lived out his days at Lysterfield. He died at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital on 5 April 1963 age 89.



... with Caleb Sharp, 1918 – supplied

Ken Gillespie's Journey from Apprentice to Chief

Another Australian bricklayer who volunteered for military service was Kenneth James Gillespie. Ken was born in Brisbane on 28 June 1952 and attended Inala State High School.

An Adventurous Life

At age 15 seeking an adventurous life, Ken joined the Army Apprentices School then located in old WW2 huts at Balcombe on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. In 1968 he became a first year apprentice bricklayer in the Australian Army (23rd Intake). This was to lay the foundation of an illustrious career ultimately reaching the position of Chief of the Army.

Graduating from the Officer Cadet School at Portsea as a Second Lieutenant in 1973 he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers. A typical subaltern's career followed with regimental, training and staff appointments. He completed the military training trilogy (Balcombe, Portsea & Queenscliff) with attendance at the Australian Army Command and Staff College just across the entrance of Port Philip Bay at Queenscliff. Graduating from Fort Queenscliff in 1985 he then took up an appointment as an instructor at the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham in the UK.

Africa & Beyond

Not long after his return to Australia, Major Gillespie was then selected in 1989 as the operation's officer and second-in-command for the Australian commitment to the United Nation's operation in Namibia, West Africa. He was awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) for his efforts.

Returning to the UK in 1991 he attended the Joint Services Command and Staff College and then assumed command of the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment in Townsville.



Promoted Brigadier in 1999 his next foray into conflict was as the Commander of the United Nation[s] Sector West multinational brigade in East Timor where he was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross. He then assumed National Command of Australia's commitment to Operation Slipper in the Middle East and was advanced from Member, to an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Becoming Chief

Promoted Major General in 2004 he became Land Commander Australia and in 2005 was appointed as the Vice Chief of the Defence Force. He was then promoted to Lieutenant General and became Chief of Army on 4 July 2008 for a total of 2 years 355 days. He was again promoted within the Order of Australia to a Companion and also awarded the Federation Star for 43 years' service to Australia.



Photo by Jeff Heron – October 2008

Half a Bricklayer? - Buckley's Chance

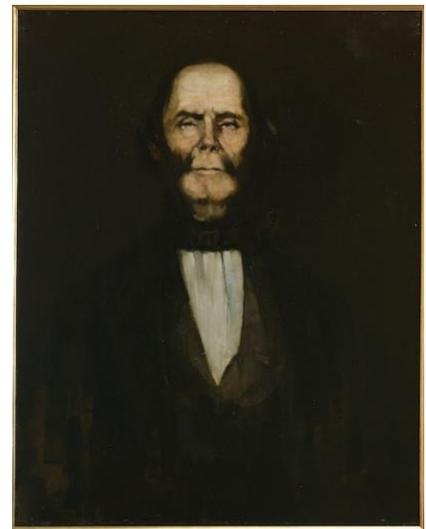
Another "infamous" Australian military bricklayer was William Buckley, an escaped convict who spent 30 years alone amongst the Aboriginal people of Victoria.

Born in Cheshire, England in 1780 he undertook his bricklaying apprenticeship before joining the Kings Foot Regiment. Being 6 feet 8 inches (203 cm) tall, he was quickly chosen to be in the Kings Own Regiment and was wounded in action during the Napoleonic Wars.

Wrongly accused of stealing, he was transported on HMS Calcutta to Sullivan Bay near Sorrento, the newly established, and short lived, penal Colony of Port Philip Bay. Escaping, he evaded capture and lived amongst the Indigenous inhabitants of south western Victoria for the next 30 years.

His remarkable feat gave rise to the Australian ironic saying of "You've got Buckley's Chance!", meaning you have a slim chance of survival.

Buckley died in Hobart in 1856 aged 76, after being pardoned and made an Aboriginal Ambassador for the Government.



*From State Library of Victoria –
FL15524915 – out of copyright*

End of the Tale

Despite the tragic conflict these Australian Army Brickies faced in their separate journeys, they are linked by their individual determination to succeed in trying to restore moral order to a troubled world.

"It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done before; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known." Charles Dickens, Tale of Two Cities, 1859

So that is the end of the tale of our two (and a half) brickies. The impact of their separate journeys has made invaluable contributions to the foundations of modern Australia.

Facimus et Franqimus

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- McNicol R.R. Maj Gen, The Royal Australian Engineers 1902 to 1919 Making and Breaking, Royal Australian Engineer Corps Committee, Canberra, 1979
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Note: Don Hughes is a 29th Intake Carpenter and Joiner. He commanded Apprentice Squadron Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) in 1985-86 and has deployed on numerous operations at home and abroad. Don is currently the President of the RAE Association of Victoria.

Australian Forces Radio Vietnam, 30 November 1969 to 14 February 1972 and "Radio DJ"

Thanks to Ross Grant AM, 17th Intake Fitter & Turner and Peter Johnston, 10th Intake Radio Mechanic

Here (<https://veteranweb.asn.au/news/armed-forces-radio-vietnam/>), you'll find a link to a YouTube presentation by John (Speedie) Sahariv, ex-RAE. "The Australian Forces Radio (AFR) in Vietnam was operated by the RAAF operating out of the Vung Tau Airbase broadcasting to all Australian forces in Phuoc Tuy Province." It includes the final broadcast of the Australian Forces Radio Vietnam at mid-night on 14 February 1972.

At the beginning of the presentation, mention is made of an earlier, locally constructed radio station (Radio DJ) with a copy of this image.

The text accompanying the image (AWM P044997.001) on the AWM Website reads:

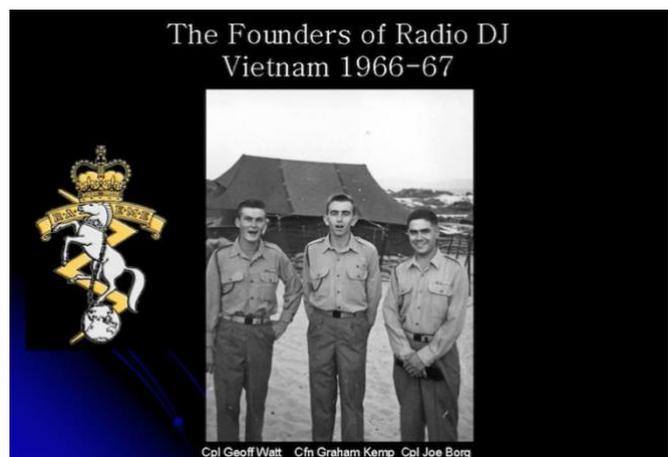
"Small transmitter used to transmit music and news around 1st Australian Logistic Support Group (1ALSG) at Vung Tau, South Vietnam. Although it was of very low power, the transmitter was connected to the telephone wires which ran through 1ALSG, giving it very good coverage. The transmitter was associated with the service of 18583 Peter John Johnston who served in Vietnam with the 101st Field Workshop (101 Fld Wksp), Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) between February 1967 and June 1967, and was constructed by 2781490 Corporal Joseph John (Joe) Borg, 101 Fld Wksp, from available parts. 1730980 Craftsman Graham Lloyd Kemp, a radio technician and an announcer at radio 4IP Brisbane, Qld, in civilian life, provided the music on tapes from his contacts in Australia.

The informal service was a source of entertainment for the Australian troops and its aim was to provide Australian music and news as an alternative to that provided by the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services (AFRTS) of the United States.

Labelling on the transmitter includes 'RADIO DJ VIETNAM' and 'DESIGNED BY 101 FD WKSP RAEME, 1 ALSG 1967'."



Besides Peter Johnston, 10th Intake Radio Mechanic mentioned above, another Apprentice, Geoff Watts, 17th Intake Radio Mechanic was one of the founders of Radio DJ Vietnam, shown below in this screenshot from the presentation.



To gain more information, I contacted Peter Johnston to find out what he could add to the story. His response (extract below) far exceeded what I expected – thanks Peter.

"Hello Jeff

At the time in 101, I was a WO2 Art Tels running the Tels Section. (Con Ermert was OC EIR PI.)

Joe Borg was a National Serviceman who was a very skilled electro-medical technician. He designed the transmitter from available parts as you can probably see from the photo. The oscillator was a 1 MHz module from the Frequency Synthesizer System (FSS) of a 25 Set and if I recall correctly the PA was the transmitter output stage



also from a 25 Set. The transmitter was coupled to the 1 ALSG telephone cable system and consequently radiated widely throughout the area which was the aim. I don't think Sigs were consulted about this use of the telephone system.

The 1 MHz module was designed to be rich in harmonics and a good signal could be heard up to 79 MHz, and probably higher.

Graham Kemp in civilian life was a technician/announcer with Radio Station 4IP Ipswich. On call up, he came to 1 General Troops Wksp at Bulimba where I had the task of giving him a trade test, which he passed. He had contacts in the commercial radio industry and was able to get music tapes from Australia from a DJ group. He operated his personal Akai M8 Reel to Reel tape recorder from the Annex tent on the side of the Tels Truck. It was well received by the diggers as a welcome change from the American forces radio network. At the time there was nothing from Australia other than Radio Australia on shortwave.

If my memory is correct, Graham went back to 4IP and Joe went back to Liverpool Hospital maintaining electro-medical equipment.

Geoff Watts was involved in the design, construction and operation also.

At the time, I took the photo of the transmitter as I thought it was a clever solution to the matter of providing Australian entertainment to the troops. I believe it was well received. While living in Canberra I provided some photos of equipment to the AWM of which they copied the transmitter photo.

I was posted to 101 SVN as a replacement for a person who went home for some reason. From first receiving a posting order, I wasted about 6 weeks in personnel depots in Brisbane and Sydney because RAEME had a very low priority for replacements. Finally, I went by Qantas to Manila and then Air France to Saigon (Boeing 707). That was the time before the hijacking of aircraft, there were about 8 or 9 diggers on the flight, so we got a tour of the flight deck with the pilots.

Joe Borg runs the 101 SVN Facebook page and Graham Kemp is a member of the group, so it is interesting to note that they still retain contact with veterans from the time.

Hope this helps

Regards, Peter''

AEME/RAEME Association ACT, brief history and changing of the guard

From Andrew Adams, 35th Intake Electronics Tradesman, President RAEME Association ACT

We celebrate the Service of RAEME stalwarts:

In 1992, the office of DGEME Head of Corps, BRIG John Kingston resided in Canberra. At that time, there was a small Corps association and separate WO/SNCO and Officers Associations. Management of all Corps activities were managed by DGEME staff.

When Head of Corps duties relocated to Bandiana in 1994, these associations were amalgamated into the ACT AEME/RAEME Association under the management of a small element, mainly the Systems Section (RAEME Maintenance IT Support) that remained in Canberra.

In 1997, the Systems Section relocated to Melbourne. It was decided that the Association would be managed by retired-DGEME members, COL Larry Foley and WO1 Lyell Wedd, initially supported by WO2 Trevor Bonney, who was replaced on retirement by another former-DGEME member, WO1 Laurie McDonald. Larry, Lyell and Laurie ran the ACT Association without fail until late 2022; a remarkable 25 years of service to our Corps.

Due to the relatively low number of serving and retired RAEME members in Canberra at that time, and to focus the Association energy on connectivity between members, a no-cost membership model was introduced. That forward-looking approach continues to this day.



With Larry, Lyell and Laurie's continued efforts, a series of informal lunches, dinners, barbecues and other gatherings such as Anzac Day have been regular fixtures in the ACT calendar. This has ensured the continued connection between serving and retired members of all ranks and trades.

Aside from local efforts, Lyell was also heavily involved in the development of the RAEME National Association and development of the Corps' Web sites.

The simplified model for the ACT Association management has ensured the group's efforts to remain focused on what is most important, connecting with and caring for our Corps members. Their efforts have been nothing short of commendable and in the finest traditions of our Corps.

Changing of the guard

Ian Cook, RAEME (retired) has been appointed Secretary, and myself President. In doing so, having an engineer and an Apprentice (both boffins no less) will also inevitably create some challenges and opportunities.

Ian and I have agreed that the most important role of the Association is to connect the local Spanner community, regardless of origin and status. Having both served in Canberra, we are acutely aware of the time demands for many. Accordingly, we are drawn to the concept of running a Spanner Club on a bi-monthly basis; i.e., the first Friday of each month, except April, starting next year in February, then on alternate months, potentially in different locations to cater for the dispersed nature of our RAEME community. It is proposed to continue having informal lunches at the Ainslie Footy Club on alternate months to the Spanner Clubs. These will be complemented by monthly gatherings on the last Tue night of each month at the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club at 1930 hr. (See *Other associations, etc upcoming event on page 9. Ed*)

Arte et Marte

Amiens Gun

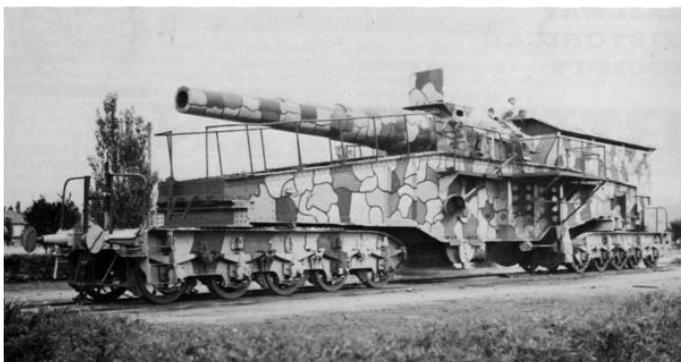
Courtesy of the Newsletter of the RAEME Association WA, Vol 46 No 4 Summer 2022

"Many of you will be aware of the capture of a 28cm SK I/40 Bruno rail gun by Australian forces during the Battle of Amiens and how when a demolition party went forward they found it still attached to its train, with steam up. Sapper Les Strahan, who has been a driver in WAGR asked for a fair go to drive it back to Australian lines. The rest, as they say, is history.

The gun was eventually sent to Sydney where it was reassembled in the NSW Eveleigh Railway Workshops by Lt George Pocket – of our Ordnance based predecessor and made its way to Canberra in 1923.

After many years outside the Canberra railway station, during WWII the mounting was identified as being useful to test heavy guns and ammunition at Port Wakefield. The gun was disassembled with the mounting going to the Artillery Proof Range at Port Wakefield and the bogies to Bandiana for storage.

It is unclear whether the mount was ever actually used and when the Australian War memorial requested its return post war (as promised) no one wanted to bear the cost. After a number of years of negotiation, the bogies were scrapped in 1961, and the mounting two years later, with the barrel being preserved outside the War Memorial where you can see it today."



Amiens gun complete outside Canberra railway station -1940



The Amiens gun today (2009)



Intake/Class photos at ASEME

MAJ Nigel Bellette, 42nd Intake Motor Mechanic has just been posted as 2IC Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME) and has noticed in Armaments and Construction Wing the various Class photos dating back to the 1st Intake. There are, however, a number of photos missing, and he would like to see if that can be corrected. The first trade he would like to work on is the Fitter & Turners, and he is seeking photos of the following Intakes: 3rd to 8th, 10th to 12th, 14th to 16th, 22nd, 24th, 28th, 30th, 35th and 38th to 40th. If anyone has any of these, please contact Nigel at nigel.bellette@defence.gov.au.

Guitars for Vets Australia – “Where Words Fail, Music Speaks”

Biography, Paul Malone, 34th Intake Fitter & Turner, G4VA Team Leader North

Courtesy Dave Cox 26th Radio Mechanic, via Facebook, 29 October 2022

Paul ‘Pops’ Malone served in the ARA from 1979 to 1999. “As a marine fitter, he served at 1st Commando Regiment, the Special Air Service Regiment and the Army Maritime School. He discharged as a Warrant Officer Class 2, from the position of Section Head of the Marine Engineering Section, Army Logistics [sic] Training Centre, (Maritime Wing) Townsville.

He is an avid guitarist and became involved with Guitars for Vets in 2018. Paul was eager to assist with this unique program and soon found himself running operations in Queensland. Paul with his wife Darlene, recently moved from the Sunshine Coast to Woodford. They have two daughters and a granddaughter living in Brisbane. They are all musicians!



Paul says ‘our G4VA program is gaining momentum and I feel privileged to be a part of it’.”

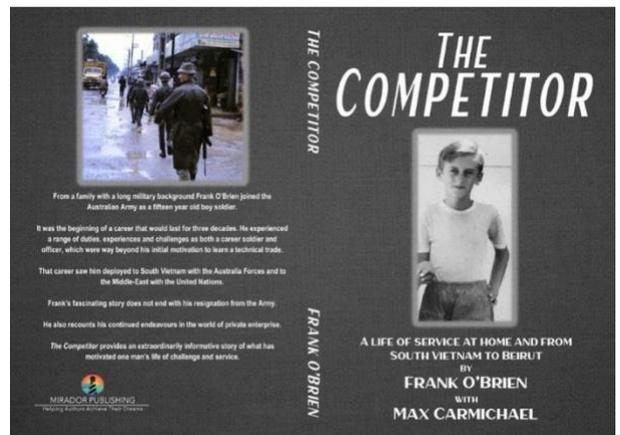
[Dave Cox and Guitars for Vets have featured previously in TAA. Ed]

Book for sale – ‘The Competitor’

From a Facebook post by Frank O’Brien, 19th Intake Fitter & Turner

“Since I ‘retired’ from the military many of my contemporaries have commented: “FrankO ... you should write a book”. I bet a good many of us have thought about doing something similar before we start crocheting blankets for our days in a rocking chair.

Anyway ... I finally got it done. Many ex RAEME soldiers will know of Max Carmichael (author of *With Skill and Fighting - Craftsmen of the Australian Army 1942-2014*). It was Max who showed me the way and became the co-author of a book about my time in the military and beyond.”



Available as an e-book or hard copy via Amazon Books in Australia and hard copy from Booktopia.

From the Web

Formation of the Association of Australian Army Training Teams (AAATT)

From VetAffairs 19 December 2022

Many will know that 16 Army Apprentices served with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), with most of those still with us. But the AATTV is not the only group of Australian Army trainers. “Since 1917, thousands of Australian Army servicemen and women have deployed on training missions in support of allies and partners. Often these deployments comprise bespoke contingents drawn from across the breadth of Army.



Training missions have been conducted both as complementary operations to the well-known conflicts and large-scale deployments that Australia has participated in since Federation, as well as standalone missions, deployed to many countries including Vietnam, Malaya/Malaysia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Timor.

BRIG Ash Collingburn DSM, former CO of the Task Group Taji 1 Training Team (2015), said that the AAATT has been formed “To preserve the legacy of all Australian Army trainers who have served their nation abroad, and to foster the mateship and close ties you have forged through shared training team experiences.”

“If you are interested in joining the AAATT, finding out more about the Association, wanting to contribute photographs (for our Instagram and Facebook webpages), read a history of Australian Army Training Teams, or wish to volunteer to assist the growth of the AAATT, please email: secretaryaaatt@optusnet.com.au or aaattsteeringgp@gmail.com or view [instagram.com/armytrainingteamsaustralia/](https://www.instagram.com/armytrainingteamsaustralia/) or Facebook (search ‘AAATT’).”

Our Committee

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

Note We are still keen to fill some positions, particularly: Merchandise Officer, Heritage Officer and Regional Representatives for North Qld, Southern Vic (e.g. Gippsland), and Central Vic (e.g. Albury Wodonga).

PatronMAJGEN Andrew Freeman AM, 40th Elec Fitter

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Vice-presidentGreg Haggett, 40th P&G
SecretarySteve Doudle, 25th VM
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South Qld Brian Daley OAM, 14th VM,
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ACT Jeff Heron, 21st RM, Life Member
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.

We are still interested in articles about Bonegilla, from the ‘80s and ‘90s, as well as more Corps-specific items.

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.