

# THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

Volume 6 | Issue 1

November 2023



**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 (RETD)**

907

## From the President

*By Keith Lowe, 22<sup>nd</sup> Fitter and Turner, President AAAA, [president@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:president@austarmyapprentice.org)*

How the years fly by with our Association having just held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 21 October.

I take this opportunity to welcome two new members to our Committee. Simon Brooks, 40<sup>th</sup> Motor Mechanic kindly nominated and was elected unopposed for the unexpected Secretary's vacancy. Rob Minato, 31<sup>st</sup> Electronics Tradesman accepted nomination for the Heritage Officer vacancy. Many thanks gentlemen for offering your services to the Association and I must say it is very pleasing to see Intake numbers greater than the twenties coming onboard.

Steve Doudle did not seek renomination for the Secretary position, stepping down after two years in that role. Thank you for your contribution in that position and welcome to your new position of Committee Member.

Robert (Bob) Clarke and Michael O'Donnell both 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake have been re-elected unopposed to Committee.

Thanks must also go to John Culbert 18<sup>th</sup> Intake who did not renominate after serving two years. John was always available to assist without being asked.

It was pleasing to see Bob Coventry, also from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake staying on as the WA Regional Representative.

Formal reports from the various portfolios will be available for members to read on our Website at <https://austarmyapprentice.org/notices-of-meetings/>.

An early advice for those Members who were not at the Annual General Meeting, the next one will be on Saturday 26 October 2024 at the Maroochydore RSL, Maroochydore QLD.

Until next time, all the very best to all. Keith Lowe – 23 October 2023

## Also in this edition:

<i>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Commemorating Formation of the Army Apprentices School.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Apprentices in the news .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Welfare and Vale notices .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Membership matters.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Vietnam Veterans Vigil – August 2023.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day 31 August 2023.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Events reports.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Upcoming events.....</i>	<i>14</i>

<i>SPAASSM Collection .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Letters to the Editor .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Merchandise.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>History.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>New Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicles.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Veterans report proposes an Army cadet apprentice school .....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Our Committee.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Contributions to The Apprentice About.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Disclaimer.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>SPAASSM display at the Army Museum.....</i>	<i>21</i>



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Commemorating Formation of the Army Apprentices School

Over the weekend 20 – 22 October 2023, we commemorated 75 years since the 1<sup>st</sup> Intake of 63 Army Apprentices commenced their training in August 1948 at Balcombe, Victoria, thus establishing the Australian Army Apprentice Scheme and the Army Apprentices School. Concurrent with this commemoration was recognition that, in December 1982/January 1983, trade training for Apprentices began at the newly-built Army Apprentices School at Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla, Victoria. The Albury Entertainment Centre was the venue for the first two days’ events, with the last day’s events being held at South Bandiana.



The first clue that Apprentices were in town was the wide range of Jon Rogers’ “tac signs” displayed on cars (and in at least one hotel lift).



**Meet & greet.** The meet & greet was scheduled to start at 1600 hrs but some eager beavers turned up at 1350 hrs. After some negotiation, and departure of the venue cleaners, the doors were opened about an hour early and registration and the festivities began. It was reported that the bar ran out of beer, but it turns out that there was a problem with the gas for the beer taps. Canned beer or other drinks became popular. Also popular was Richard Pike’s merchandise stand. With his helpers, many items of merchandise were sold. All too soon, 2000 hrs arrived, and we were ushered out of the venue.

**AGM.** At about 1030 hrs on Saturday morning, nearly 100 brave souls ventured out and attended the AGM. See **Our Committee** on the last page for the new Committee.

**Dinner.** About 450 attended a great dinner, with both options for the entree and main courses being well received. Again, the bar provided challenges but most of those attending were able to quench their thirsts. A burning candle on the stage (below) reminded us of those who have passed away or were unable to attend for other reasons.



**Wreath laying ceremony.** On Sunday morning, at Gaza Ridge Barracks, South Bandiana, with the Army Apprentices (contd)



Memorial in the background, after an introduction from AAAA Welfare Officer, Barry Minster OAM, 20<sup>th</sup> Intake Radio Mechanic, the AAAA Chaplain, Rev Canon Alan Kelb OAM, 25<sup>th</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner led a large group in prayer. Alan then provided an excellent, brief explanation of the design of the Memorial. This was followed by the Last Post and Rouse, the Ode by Bob Clarke, 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic, and the National Anthem. Wreaths were laid by Barry for the Association, and by other members.

**Museum visit.** The Army Museum at Bandiana was established in 1976 as the RAAOC General Museum. It was combined in 1997 with the RACT Museum, the AACC Historical Collection, and the RAEME Historical Collection and renamed the Australian Army Museum Bandiana. It was then expanded in 1998 to include the RAAMC, the RAADC and the RAANC Historical Collections, and further expanded during 2012/13 with the RAAPC, making it the largest military museum collection in Australia. Reunion attendees took the opportunity to tour the extensive facilities, reminiscing about their time at Apprentices School and the many Army units and corps to which they were sent on graduating. Partners, families and friends were subjected to stories both true and nearly true!

**BBQ.** To round off the weekend, a generous bbq lunch was provided by 3<sup>rd</sup> Wodonga Scout Group.

**Wrap up.** We had most intakes represented, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 48<sup>th</sup>. Sadly, representatives from single digit intakes are becoming less and less, with only the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> attending this time. The 41<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Intakes had the greatest numbers with 22 and 15 respectively.

**Photos.** Photos of the Reunion will be posted to the Association Website and can be seen here ([Photos](#)).

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## **Apprentices in the news**

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### **First Tier C ASM – WO1 Andrew Beaman OAM, 46<sup>th</sup> Intake Motor Mechanic**

*From RAQ Friday Files, 29 Sep 2023*



*In 2022, presented his OAM by the Governor-General for meritorious devotion to duty as ASM of 1 Bde, 3 Bde & 1 Armd Regt*

“Hello all,

It is with great pleasure I wish to announce the Corps first Tier C ASM and the first non-regimental Tier C Warrant Officer. WO1 Andrew Beaman as of January 2024 will take on the role of ASM Land Worthiness within Land Capability Division.

This appointment highlights the importance of senior enlisted technically qualified personal reaching pinnacle appointments in order to provide expert advice on Land material.

Congratulations Andrew, fantastic news.

Regards, Jon

WO1 Jon Tynan, RSM

Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering”

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### **Women in Uniform exhibition, Army Museum South Queensland**

*From RAQ Friday Files, 14 Oct 2023*

“On Wednesday 11 October 2023, Victoria Barracks in Brisbane became the backdrop for over 30 members and guests who gathered to celebrate the Women in RAEME event. This first event which also supported the current ‘Women in Uniform’ exhibition at Army Museum South Queensland, which runs until the end of the year.

The event highlighted the role of women in the military and their pivotal role within RAEME. Since the Boer War, women have proven themselves as indispensable members of the ADF, contributing to the readiness and capabilities of our nation's defence. This event provided a platform to celebrate their achievements and promote diversity within Army.



Suzanne Shipp, our guest speaker, delivered a compelling address that resonated with all attendees.

Suzanne joined the Army at age 16 as a 46<sup>th</sup> Intake Apprentice, completing Year 12 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Engineering while studying at night part time. After being commissioned, she was appointed as an Engineering Officer, where she led a team that conducted flight line operations and maintenance of a squadron of military helicopters.

She is an accomplished Executive leader and shared her experiences and insights, inspiring the audience with her journey and the challenges she has overcome.”

## Welfare and Vale notices

Contact: Association Welfare Officer Barry Minster OAM, 20<sup>th</sup> Intake Radio Mechanic, [welfare@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:welfare@austarmyapprentice.org)

### The Welfare Officer:

- supports members in determining 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 [Vale Notification Form](#) prompts for the necessary information. If you don't have all 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 **two historic entries**.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
16	342880	Lawrence Charles PYKE	Bricklayer (DNG)	<b>27 Mar 2016</b>
11	242998	Barry Bruce NICOLL	Vehicle Mechanic	<b>23 Dec 2022</b>
13	243092	Warren WILDE	Vehicle Mechanic	11 Jun 2023
23	55601	Robert (Slim, Bob) Raymond ULLOCK	Radio Mechanic	26 Jul 2023
29	1204977	David Bruce CROLLICK	Plumber and Gasfitter	3 Aug 2023
42	327991	David Alexander HUTCHISON	Electronics Tradesman	3 Aug 2023
7	64281	Trevor Basil BARKER	Carpenter and Joiner	7 Aug 2023
9	242871	Leonard Michael (Mick) SMITH	Electrician	11 Aug 2023
27	1204059	Brian Philip (Bear) O'CONNELL	Fitter Maintenance	22 Aug 2023
16	342891	Edward John (Eddie or Brickie) SULMAN	Bricklayer	23 Aug 2023
8	242812	Arnold Ross SAWTELL	Vehicle Mechanic / Clerk	1 Sep 2023
36	229655	David Andrew (Brutus or Gull) FULLER	Electronics Tradesman	17 Sep 2023
29	57894	John Morris GOODE	Vehicle Mechanic	23 Sep 2023
15	18681	Alan George MEIKLEJOHN	Vehicle Mechanic	27 Oct 2023



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## **Vale – 337717 Colonel Lindsay Horner, RAEME**

*From Barry Shipway (Welfare Rep) RAEME Association QLD*

*“It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Colonel Lindsay Horner (Lilydale, Victoria), who passed away on August 7, 2023, at the age of 94.*

*Lindsay served in a number of postings in Australia and overseas including UK, PNG and Operations in SVN from 24 Sep to 8 Oct 1970.”*

On 3 September 1979, COL Horner became the first Controller of the newly-formed Maintenance Engineering Agency (MEA), in which many Apprentices served during its approximately 20 years’ life and nearly 30 Apprentices, mostly officers and warrant officers, were foundation members of the organisation.

MEA was formed as an Army Headquarters agency by combining the former Technical Services Unit – RAEME (TSU) Broadmeadows, Engineering Division of Logistic Command – Army in Melbourne, and the Maintenance Engineering Liaison Section (MELS) of Army Headquarters in Canberra.



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## **Vale LTCOL Harry Arthur Smith SG MC (Retd), OC D Coy, 6 RAR, Battle of Long Tan**

This was meant to be an uplifting article about Stuart Topp’s “pool room” moment, when he gave Harry Smith a ride as a birthday gift from his wife for Harry’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 25 July 2023. Sadly, instead, on 20 August we learnt that Harry had passed away that day.

Born in Hobart on 25 July 1933, Harry served as a National Serviceman before joining the Regular Army. He attended Officer Cadet School, Portsea and was posted to 2RAR in 1955. He served during the Malayan Emergency between 1955 and 1957, and then in Vietnam between 8 June 1966 and 14 June 1967. After Vietnam, he commanded 1 Cdo Coy and then was CO/CI of the Parachute Training School, before leaving the Army in 1976 after a parachuting injury. Harry’s MC, earned during the Battle of Long Tan, was upgraded on 14 August 2008 to the Star of Gallantry (SG – the Australian Honours System replacement for the DSO).

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## **Topp Adventures, last customer**

*By Stuart Topp, 29<sup>th</sup> Intake Electronics Tradesman, 25 July 2023*

*“Here is one to go straight into the pool room.*

*LTCOL Harry Smith SG MC (Retd), OC D Coy 6 RAR Battle of Long Tan turned ninety today. I run a business, Topp Adventures, offering motorcycle sidecar joy rides. Harry’s wife booked me to give him a ride as a birthday gift.*

*It was an honour to meet Harry as I had a cousin Francis (Frank) Topp who was killed in the initial contact during the Battle of Long Tan.*

*I’m closing my business at the end of the month [July 2023] and I feel that it is fitting to have had Harry as my last customer.”*

*Stuart wrote further that “I started my business in 2018, after giving up full time work in mid-2017. I always wanted to do something where I could share the joy of motorcycling. I chose to use a motorcycle sidecar combination as it differed from the typical Harley rides that were on offer. I’m glad I did as I developed a clientele of disabled customers. This, I found very satisfying.*

*My business objective was to give me something to do, while giving something to others. I was happy if I could cover operating costs. I referred to my business as my not-for-profit organisation.*

*Lately, I have incurred a significant increase in operating costs while having a downturn in income. It’s time to call it quits.”*





## Membership matters

BY Graeme Smail, 35<sup>th</sup> ET – Membership Secretary [membership@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:membership@austarmyapprentice.org)

### Membership Status

The current state of the membership (as at 18 Oct 2023) is 876 financial members, consisting of:

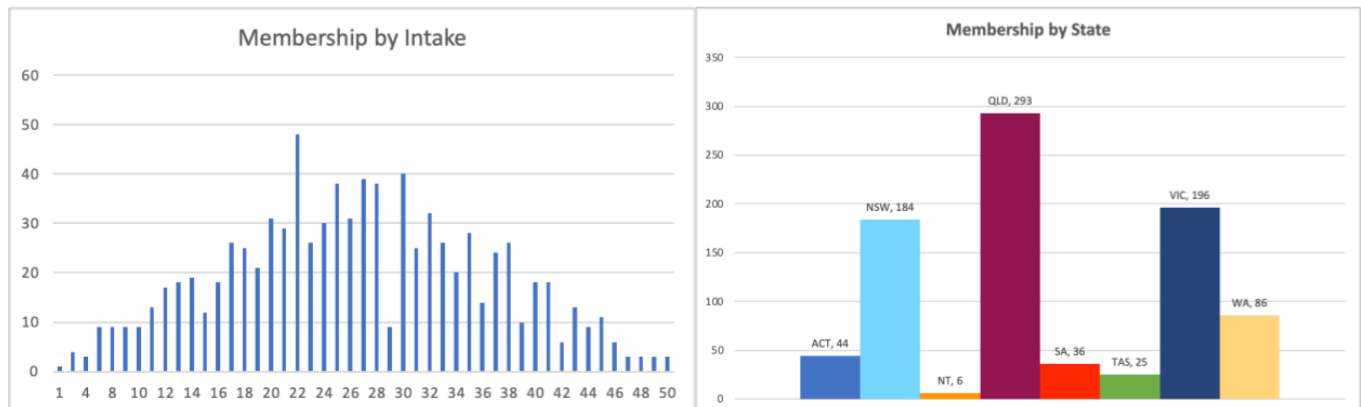
Membership type	18/10/23	15/10/22	Year to year
Life	3	3	-
Ordinary	616	722	(106)
Retired	250	179	71
Associate	7	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>(33)</b>

These figures show a decrease in membership of 33 since the AGM in 2022. More notably is the changing demographics between Ordinary and Retired as the membership population ages.

Since the last AGM there have been 83 new member registrations which is positive however it also highlights the number of members who are choosing not, or have forgotten, to renew their membership. 1 Sept was a legacy renewal date and 46 members have not yet renewed with a further 14 members whose membership has expired since then.

Similar to last year a mailout to all expired members will be conducted during Nov 23 in an attempt to reduce this decline.

### Membership Analysis



## Vietnam Veterans Vigil – August 2023

### AAAA Honour Board – Vietnam

APPRENTICES WHO DIED ON OVERSEAS ACTIVE SERVICE		
VIETNAM		
MD Poole	17 <sup>th</sup> Intake Musician	21 Feb 1967
DS Wride	14 <sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic	10 Jul 1967
BJ Moore	8 <sup>th</sup> Intake Blacksmith	16 Nov 1967
RJ Engstrom	18 <sup>th</sup> Intake Carpenter & Joiner	30 Jan 1970
RK Nichols	1 <sup>st</sup> Intake Electrician (Vehicle & Plant)	28 Dec 1970
J Hall	11 <sup>th</sup> Intake Clerk	27 Oct 1971

On the AAAA Website is an Honour Board, listing (amongst others) all those Apprentices who died whilst on overseas operational service.

*This image (left) of those who died in Vietnam is an extract from the Website (<https://austarmyapprentice.org/honour-board/>).*



## Anniversaries

Last year (2022) marked 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV) in South Vietnam (SVN) on 3 August 1962. It also marked 50 years since the withdrawal of the majority of Australian combat troops in December 1972, although a platoon remained to guard the Australian embassy in Saigon until the platoon was withdrawn in June 1973.

On 11 January 1973, Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War officially ended, with those last troops leaving in June. Over 60,000 Australians served our country during the 13-year campaign.

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the AAS

On 26 April 2018, the Last Post Ceremony, which is held daily at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Army Apprentices School in 1948.

During this ceremony, the then Director of the AWM, DR Brendan Nelson AO also spoke about Robert (Bob) Semple OAM BEM, one of the last Rats of Tobruk (who died on 16 January 2020 at the age of 99) and who was present at the ceremony.

Following the laying of wreaths, LTCOL Craig Johnson, 32<sup>nd</sup> Intake Musician remembered CPL Ronald Engstrom, 18<sup>th</sup> Intake Carpenter & Joiner.



*This image (above) is of a memorial sign at the High Range Training Area in Townsville (photo supplied by Bob Engstrom).*

*"This sign was refurbished by the North QLD Branch of the Sapper Association in conjunction with CSI-NQ 2006."*

*Bob Engstrom (above centre) also visited the Long Tan Cross in Vietnam in 2016 with a Tunnel Rats Association Tour (photo supplied by Bob Engstrom).*

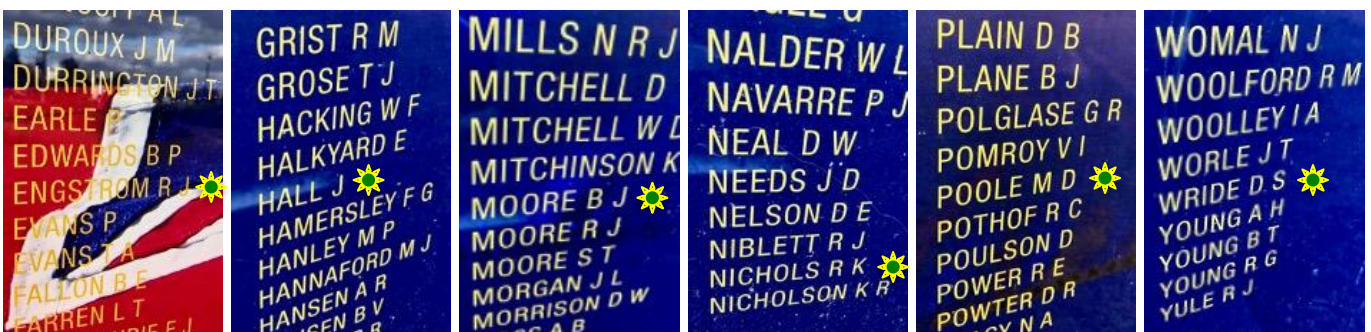
A full video recording of the Last Post Ceremony from 26 Apr 2018 is available on the AWM's YouTube channel at "[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_EbNqyDR-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_EbNqyDR-k)". A full transcript of LTCOL Johnson's speech is at "<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2610684>".

Ronald's Roll of Honour entry is at "<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1715747>".

### Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk

*Photos by Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> Intake Radio Mechanic, Editor*

Many have seen the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour, symbolising the (contd next page)





60,000 service men and women who devoted their energies to the service and protection of Australia. Their names, including the six Army Apprentices who died (previous page), are scripted across the 106 glass panels. This panel (right) lists 521 who died in Vietnam [*the Vietnam Veterans Vigil Website lists 523 "KIA"*]. A Long Tan Cross replica, a Centurion tank, a Huey helicopter, artillery pieces, and an M113 APC are also displayed.



***Grave/commemorative plaque site commemorations, 3 August***

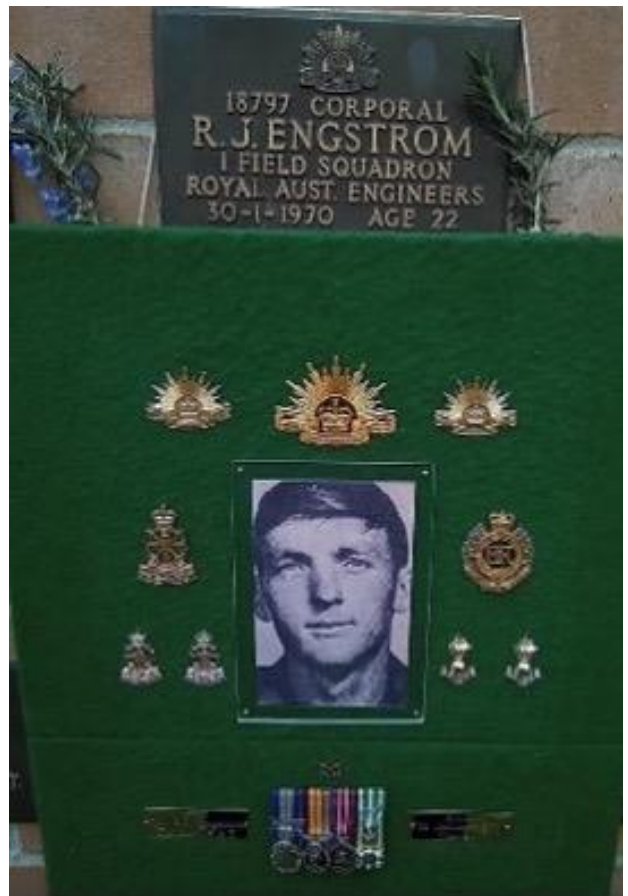
On 3 August, Services of Remembrance were to be held at every grave or commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas. Below and on the next two pages are images from services held for Donald Spence WRIDE, 14<sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic, conducted by Ray Wilson, 15<sup>th</sup> Intake Plumber; and for Ronald John ENGSTROM, 18<sup>th</sup> Intake Carpenter & Joiner, conducted by Robert (Bob) Engstrom, 16<sup>th</sup> Intake Bricklayer.



*Left top: commemorative plaque for Donald Spence Wride, 14<sup>th</sup> Vehicle Mechanic from Ray Wilson, 15<sup>th</sup> Plumber.*



*Left bottom: Bob Engstrom at his brother Ronald's commemoration at the Pinaroo Lawn Cemetery, Albany Creek, Brisbane.*



*Right: Ronald Engstrom's plaque and Bob's tribute (photos supplied).*





Headstone (above) and grave (right) at Dromana Cemetery for Michael Damien Poole, 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Musician.



Photos supplied by Tony Stafford, 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner, who conducted the commemoration.



Above right (L-R): Dennis Lane, President Nambucca RSL Sub Branch; Brian Duncan OAM; John Kent OAM, Treasurer; and John Guynette.



Left: gravesite for Barry John Moore, 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Blacksmith at Urunga Cemetery. Photo supplied by Bill Shepherd 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner.



Right: commemorative plaque at Newcastle Memorial Park, Beresfield for John Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> Intake Clerk (<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/231837/newcastle-memorial-park>)

Right: commemorative plaque at Springvale Botanical Cemetery for Raymond Kevin Nichols, 1<sup>st</sup> Intake Electrician (Vehicle & Plant). Thanks to Tony Stafford, 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner who conducted the commemoration for Ray. Tony wrote, "Ray died at 106 Fd Wksp whilst I was a member of the unit."



Nambucca Heads RSL members performed the commemoration ceremony for Barry Moore with around 120 people attending. Bill Shepherd wrote, "It was a very moving and respectful ceremony and I expressed my thanks for their efforts. Local TV and papers were present and we were on TV and in the local paper."

Next page, Bill Shepherd, in the green jacket, and his wife Maureen and daughter Catherine are on the extreme right.



***National Commemorative Service, Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM), 18 August***

Ominously introduced by a short, sharp downpour of rain, the Service was attended by the Governor-General, Federal and ACT politicians, many nationally recognised Australian dignitaries, representatives from the NZ High Commission and the US Embassy, and hundreds of veterans and ordinary Australians. Fortunately, the heavy rain stayed away for the duration of the Service. After the now-traditional playing of the didgeridoo, by LCPL Carl Murkun Guyula from North-West Mobile Force, and acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners, marching on of the colours of the three services, mounting of the catafalque party, and marching on of the Federation Guard, Master of Ceremonies BRIG Hugh Meggitt AM CSC hosted a thought-provoking ceremony.

The Hon. Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel delivered the Commemorative Address. During his address, the Minister stated "... and to this day, debate remains about Australia's involvement in this war, but when we step back, one truth remains – the Australians who served did themselves, their mates and our Nation proud."



*Over 100 wreaths and floral tributes were laid by official representatives and members of the public.*



*“Lest we Forget” photographic display – 4 Apprentices are visible: John Hall – top row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left; Donald Wride – 3<sup>rd</sup> row from top, 13<sup>th</sup> from left, Ronald Engstrom – 8<sup>th</sup> row from top, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left; and Barry Moore – bottom row, 13<sup>th</sup> from left.*

### **Canberra 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

*By Barry Minster OAM, 20<sup>th</sup> Intake Radio Mechanic, Welfare Officer*

Last weekend I was fortunate to attend the Canberra Commemorative service to mark the end of 50 years of cessation of war with Vietnam. It was deferred until Vietnam Veterans Day – 18<sup>th</sup> August – to honour those who served and especially those who gave their all. My wife and I chose to drive from Melbourne to attend and we stayed with friends over three nights.

On the Friday at 0930 we found unallocated seating under cover near the centre of action on Anzac Avenue. Fortunately we did as it showered and the VIPs were rained upon. Sadly neither the Prime Minister nor the Leader of the Opposition felt it necessary to be there.

The Acknowledgement of country was handled well by Brigadier Hugh Meggitt AM CSC who was the Master of Ceremonies; he spoke clearly and indeed welcomed all of us who were present.

The catafalque party was mounted and held post throughout the entire 90 minutes in the drizzling rain. The Federation Guard assembled [carrying SLR Rifles] and we were treated to a fine showing of precision drill and His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC [Retd] Governor-General attended.



All Vietnam Veterans present were asked to stand [if they could] and were given a rousing round of applause. I estimated that approximately 450 to 500 present were standing to receive this heartfelt clapping.

Mr Robert Redman CSC of No 9 Squadron gave a call to temperance address followed by a lengthy address from the Honourable Matt Keogh MP – Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel. The words spoken were well chosen but sadly I felt his heart was not in his words.



The Band of the Royal Military College was present playing appropriate music when required.

Mr David Manolas who served on *HMAS Sydney [III]* and *HMAS Duchess* spoke on being a Veteran.

Prayers of Commemoration were given by Mrs Judiann Hohnke, daughter of Leading Aircraftman Duncan G McNair No 9 Squadron RAAF and also by Principal Air Chaplain James Cox RAAF.

Officials were then asked to lay wreaths and they were followed by members of various associations and the public. I estimate over 150 wreaths were laid at the Vietnam Memorial.



Mr Peter Rosemond CSC OAM 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment gave the Ode of Remembrance. Last Post was sounded followed by 1 minute of silence and then Rouse. A single Helicopter flew overhead during the Last Post – not sure if it was a Huey as the sound of its blades was unfamiliar. [It was a former RAN UH-1B Iroquois from the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS). Editor]

The New Zealand National Anthem was played followed by Advance Australia Fair. Principal Air Chaplain James Cox then gave a final blessing and actually said “in the name of Christ”. Up until then – the service had been non-denominational. The Governor-General departed then the catafalque party and colour party dismounted and the ceremony was over. I was very glad I took the time to attend – I caught up with many friends whilst there.

On the Saturday the War Memorial opened the under-croft area which houses the post WW2 exhibits to allow Vietnam Veterans access – as this area will close to enable a \$500,000,000 development of exhibits.

We drove home on Sunday feeling refreshed and it is great to know that there are many civilians who genuinely appreciate the Vietnam Veteran and the service that they gave all those years ago.

342976 Corporal BARRY MINSTER, 20<sup>th</sup> Radio Mechanic, 110<sup>th</sup> Signals Squadron, Saigon, 2 April 1969 to 30 October 1970 [19 months or 576 continuous days in country]



### Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

ADF members who served during the Vietnam War have been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (the Citation). The Citation was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to military units that distinguished themselves in battle. The Governor-General has formally approved the awarding of the Citation to Australian military units in recognition of their service during the Vietnam War.



This approval is now for members of **all** Australian units ([listed here](#)) who served in South Vietnam to wear the citation. To be eligible for the Citation, Navy and Air Force members must have served in Vietnam as part of a unit awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam or a unit under the operational control of United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam, during the eligible dates. Click [here](#) for more details.

### Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day 31 August 2023

#### Commemoration

Source <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/days/malay-borneo-veterans-day>

“Each year on 31 August, Australia commemorates Malaya and Borneo Veterans’ Day. It’s the day we reflect on the service and sacrifice of all Australian military personnel who served in the Malayan Emergency [1948 to 1960] and the Indonesian Confrontation [1962 to 1966]. The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour lists the names of 61 Australians who lost their lives in these conflicts.”

#### AAAA Honour Board – Malaya and Borneo

APPRENTICES WHO DIED ON OVERSEAS ACTIVE SERVICE		
MALAYA		
BD Henderson	8 <sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic	16 Jan 1959
KV Jones	8 <sup>th</sup> Intake Telecom Mechanic	18 Sep 1959
BORNEO		
AJ Colohan	13 <sup>th</sup> Intake Electrical Mechanic	15 Dec 1965
PJJ West	6 <sup>th</sup> Intake Bricklayer	2 Jul 1966

Listed on the AAAA Honour Board are the four Apprentices who lost their lives during the Malayan Emergency, and the Indonesian Confrontation.

(Left) those who died in Malaya and Borneo extracted from the Website (<https://austarmyapprentice.org/honour-board/>).



## Events reports

### **32<sup>nd</sup> Intake Electronics Tradesmen's 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Agnes Water QLD – 29 June to 3 July 2023**

*By Ash Pagett, 32<sup>nd</sup> Intake Electronics Tradesman*

After being COVID-19 delayed, the 45/46<sup>th</sup> reunion for the 32<sup>nd</sup> (1977) Electronics Tradesmen (32ETs) was successfully held at Agnes Water during the period 29 June to 03 July 2023. 19 attended, comprising 13 (of 42) 32ETs plus six wives/partners, some travelling from as far afield as Perth, Melbourne, Merimbula SNSW, and Canberra and others from as nearby as Brisbane and Townsville.

Grahame ('Jack') and Thereye Danson were wonderful hosts and welcomed all comers into their home. Caravans, campervans and trailer tents surrounded the Danson's two-storey mansion, and they provided lodgings inside for many others too.

Heartfelt thanks go to Mark and Bridget Mangles who planned and managed the event, including catering. They did a superb job. Every meal was prepared and cooked by them and a band of eager helpers on a trailer BBQ and Dutch ovens in the coals of the large bonfire. Passing the port around the bonfire fuelled many reminiscences and tall stories well into the nights.

As you might expect in Central Queensland in June, the Agnes Water weather did not disappoint. Those from southern states in the grip of mid-winter were able to strip down to shorts and T shirts (show off white legs) and have a break from the oppressive cold. Many classmates who drove in 4WDs were able to test their cross-country driving skills on the nearby sand dunes.

For those who didn't know or can't remember, ETs remained at Balcombe in Admin Coy for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of extra theory and prac well after their fellow black trade classmates graduated. Also, since mid-1977, ETs were streamed into self-paced groups, completing their trade work in various stages throughout 1979. Once complete, they were progressively detached to Army units for the remainder of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Some groups departed Balcombe as early as September '77 on Ex KANGAROO 3. 32ET classmates didn't reunite back at Balcombe until December '79 for their graduation along with the graduating 33<sup>rd</sup> intake black trades.

The reunion was a tremendous reconnection for many 32ET classmates, some not seen since graduation. There is a strong commitment by those who attended to hold another reunion in 2025 – location to be detailed later.





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## **ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday, 6 September 2023**

*By Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> Radio Mechanic, Newsletter Editor and ACT Regional Rep*

A smaller group of 15 came out this time in the pleasant Canberra sunshine to enjoy lunch. Intakes 2, 7, 15, 19, 21, 22, 33, 43 and 45 were represented. Thanks to Harry Cole (7<sup>th</sup> VM – unfortunately absent due to injury) and Laurie (Spike) Wiseman (19<sup>th</sup> VM) we had 7 nice bottles of wine as lucky door prizes. Next lunch will be held on 6 December and I promise even more and varied prizes.

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## **Upcoming events**

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### **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.

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### **AAAA and other Apprentices functions**

- \* **ACT Region Quarterly Lunch**, Ainslie FC, 6 Dec 2023, 1200. Please let me know if you intend to be there, [news@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:news@austarmyapprentice.org).
  - \* **Apprentices get-together**, Bundaberg RSL, 8 Dec 2023 for lunch. Let Ian Laycock, 27<sup>th</sup> Fitter Maintenance know if you intend to be there via Facebook, posted on 24 Sep 2023, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth, or Australian Army Apprentices Association [official].
  - \* **All Class Apprentices Catch Up**, Highett RSL, Sat 13 Jan 2024, from 1300 hrs, respond via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth (posted 19 Oct 2023).
  - \* **AAAA Committee meeting**, 3 Feb 2024, Kirribilli Club and via Zoom.
  - \* **19<sup>th</sup> Intake (VMs plus others) 60 Year Reunion**, Sunshine Coast TBC/Bribie Island, 23-26 April 2024. All intakes welcome. Contact Pete Leslie, 19<sup>th</sup> VM, 0413 620945, [pete128@outlook.com](mailto:pete128@outlook.com).
  - \* **AAAA AGM**, 26 Oct 2024, Maroochydore RSL, 1000 for 1030.
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### **Other associations, etc**

- \* **21 Construction Sqn RAE**, Royal Hotel (Derms), Seymour, VIC, 10-12 Nov 2023. Contact Bill Thornley, 0438 140759, [we.2.bez@bigpond.com](mailto:we.2.bez@bigpond.com).
  - \* **106 Fd Wksp Annual Lunch**, Steeples, Mornington, VIC, 20 Nov 2023, past and present members of 106 Fd Wksp. Contact Milton Pearson, 0488 050261, [csm1066869@gmail.com](mailto:csm1066869@gmail.com)
  - \* **Biennial QLD Sappers’ Holdfast Reunion**, Townsville, Fri 26 to Mon 29 Apr 2024, immediately after Anzac Day. Includes anniversaries for Namibia – 35 years, INTERFET – 25 years, and 40 years since the 39<sup>th</sup> Intake enlisted.
  - \* **RASigs Association VIC Committee meeting (1100 hrs) & Xmas lunch (1200 hrs)**, Mail Exchange Hotel, Cnr Bourke & Spencer St Melbourne, Thu 30 Nov 2023, contact President Gavin Lee, [gavin.lee18@hotmail.com](mailto:gavin.lee18@hotmail.com).
  - \* **RA SIGS CERTA CITO 100 2025**, events commemorating 100 years of the Corps, reflecting on the past, present, and future, by ARA/ARES Signals units across Australia, culminating in Nov 2025. [https://rasigs.org/?page\\_id=291](https://rasigs.org/?page_id=291)
  - \* **RAEME ACT**. Contact <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>
  - \* **RAEME QLD**. Contact [functions@qld.raeme.org.au](mailto:functions@qld.raeme.org.au), Website <http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>
-



- \* **RAEME SA.** Contact <https://sa.raeme.org.au/>
- \* **Central Victorian Veterans Group**, monthly get-together, Bendigo RSL Club Terrace, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 1830 hrs. Contact Jonathan Crust, 48<sup>th</sup> C&J via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth.
- \* **HQ 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Task Force and D&E PI**, Torrens Trg Depot, Adelaide, 21-25 Nov 2024. Contact John Verhelst, 0437 212121, [jeverhelst@gmail.com](mailto:jeverhelst@gmail.com), [www.hq1atf.org](http://www.hq1atf.org).
- \* **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of building Lord Howe Island Airport, 2024.** Organisers are putting together a nominal roll. If you or anyone you know was involved, please contact [gary.barker3@bigpond.com](mailto:gary.barker3@bigpond.com). This will get you added to the roll and keep you in the loop on further developments. From Facebook, Win Coles, 23<sup>rd</sup> Radio Mech, posted on 14 Oct 2021

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## SPAASSM Collection

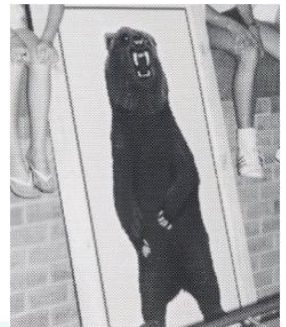
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tcmowfh3ulz8rr7/SPAASSM%20Index%20and%20Cover.pdf?dl=0>

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### November 2023 competition

**Q:** Which Company had this bear as their “mascot” and where was the photo taken?

The first person to send the most correct answer to [news@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:news@austarmyapprentice.org) will win a copy of the SPAASSM Collection on USB.



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### August 2023 competition solution (SPAASSM Phi, Image 00436)

**Q:** “How do we know this bus [framed] was from the Army Apprentices School and what do the other symbols indicate?”

**A:** The bus has a Unit or “TAC” sign on the front right with the number 907. “907” was allocated to the AAS. Training Command had signs beginning with 9, e.g. 917 was for RAEME Training Centre.



The green and yellow plate on the left was for Training Command <sup>(Note)</sup>. Army formations used the kangaroo, crown and crossed swords, with the colours indicating the formation (e.g. black on green and yellow for Training Command).

[Note: Training Command-Army was amalgamated with Land Command in 2009 to create Forces Command.]

The circular yellow plate on the lower right is the bridge classification sign (Military Load Classification Marking), in this case blank.

There were no correct answers this time. Perhaps some of you later Intakes might recognise this edition's poser.

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### AAS graduation booklets and intake journals

Did you know that the AAAA has digital copies of most graduation booklets and many awards lists, for both mid-year and end-of-year graduation ceremonies, as well as digital copies of almost all annual intake journals? Most graduation booklets and awards lists are available via the SPAASSM Collection, and the intake journals via the Website.

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## Letters to the Editor

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### Photo in the August edition and books on Apprentices

*From Major Peter Woolley, Ret, 12<sup>th</sup> Intake Apprentice, Vehicle Mechanic, Original 1970 [Army Apprentices Association] Member (joined while at AHQ Albert Park Barracks, St Kilda), but no longer a member of the Association.*



“Dear Sir

The graduation photo on page 15 of The Apprentice About, Volume 5, Issue 10, August 23, is, according to page 53 of the 1956 Balcombe Yearbook, a photo of the Graduation Class of 1955 which would mean it was the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Graduation. The photo must have been taken prior to Graduation Day as the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake graduated in KD’s and not Blues Ceremonial (possibly the only intake to do so) as shown in the photo. I know because my parents attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake graduation in support of my brother Major Darryl Lewis (Basil) Woolley (Retd), RAEME, who was an 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Apprentice.

The lone apprentice in the front row would probably be the Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major but I don’t know who that would have been, and I can’t see any rank on his arms so maybe I am wrong. My brother is I believe, 6<sup>th</sup> in the back row from the left [see the image on page 17. Ed].



The image at right shows (on the left in the back row) Darryl Lewis Woolley with the graduating Radio Mechanics of the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Apprentices

In regard to books on Apprentices, the 12<sup>th</sup> Intake is immortalised in a book called “The 12<sup>th</sup> Men”. Unfortunately, I am away from home at the moment and can provide no further information but will do so at the earliest opportunity. Keep up the good work.”

According to AAAA records, 15 Telecom Mechanics graduated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake: Rodger Andrews, William Barden, Kenneth Beatty, Charles Beavis, Phillip Clover, Kevin Jones, Donald Kemp, Michael Moylan, Kevin Murfett, Allan Potter, John Ring, Ian Rose, Kenneth Seckold, Peter Sigal, and Darryl Wooley. [Editor]

## Merchandise

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

For enquiries, contact the Treasurer: [merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org](mailto:merchandise@austarmyapprentice.org)

MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
DVDs	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Albury Wodonga 1998	\$10.00	\$10.00
	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2008	\$10.00	\$10.00
	2013 Balcombe Commemoration	\$10.00	\$10.00
70 <sup>th</sup> REUNION ITEMS	Stubby holder	\$5.00	\$5.00
	Photo card	\$16.50	\$3.50
	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 (1<sup>st</sup>) name, &amp; Intake/Class</u> )	\$16.50	\$3.50
	Tie	\$25.00	\$10.00





	MERCHANDISE ITEMS	PRICES	POSTAGE
<b>PROMOTIONS</b>	Key ring ( <i>when ordering, ask if a number you would like is available</i> )	\$20.00	\$3.50
	SPAASSM Collection USB wafer	\$25.00	\$10.00
	AAAA Name badge + 70 <sup>th</sup> Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA Name badge + AAAA Key ring	\$30.00	\$3.50
	AAAA Key Ring + 70 <sup>th</sup> Reunion photo card	\$30.00	\$3.50
<b>PLAQUES</b>	AAAA badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
	AAS badge	\$85.00	\$14.00
<b>AAS BADGED ITEMS</b>	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
<b>FACE MASK</b>	With both AAAA and AAS badges	\$15.00	\$5.00
<b>SKETCHES</b>	Set of 8 Balcombe sketches ( <i>2 sets left, contact the Treasurer</i> )	\$10.00	\$14.00

## History

### SPAASSM Collection – 1955 Graduation photo

In the last edition, the photo below was included with the questions, “When was the photo taken, who’s in it, and why does only one Apprentice appear to be seated in the front?”

There have been a couple of replies [see Letters to the Editor above], confirming that it is of the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Graduating Class, taken shortly before their graduation in December 1955.

The Apprentice seated in the front is believed to be Geoff McCormack, 8<sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic, APP/RSM.



SPAASSM Ph I, Image 01610

### Did you know?

Army Apprentices graduated to many corps in the Army, including the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers. They joined the RAE as Sappers in the trades of Architectural Draughtsman, Blacksmith, Bricklayer, Clerk, Carpenter & Joiner, Electrician, Electrical Fitter, Electrical Mechanic, Fitter & Turner, Musician, Plumber, Plumber & Gasfitter,



Vehicle Mechanic, and Welder. It appears that the only trades that missed out were the “boffins”: Telecom Mechanic, Radio Mechanic and Electronics Tradesman.

## WHO THREW THAT STONE?

By Reporter.

Extract from early prospectus “Army Apprentices’ School” (since amended)—  
“The camp is situated a stone’s throw from the beach”.

What is a “stone’s throw”? The following report from the Melbourne Herald of 13 June, 1956, sheds some light on the matter:—

“LONDON, Tues.—A ‘stone’s throw’ for advertising purposes, shall be deemed to be 100 yards or less, members of the Association of Resort Publicity Officers decided today.

“The members, meeting at Paignton, Devon, claimed that phrases such as ‘a stone’s throw from the sea’ should not be allowed in official guide advertisements unless strictly accurate.

“They agreed that ‘a stone’s throw’ would be allowed in advertisements where properties were 100 yards, or less, from the sea.

“There is no official record of how far a stone can be thrown, but the world record for throwing a cricket ball is 140 yds. 2 ft.—a feat performed by R. Percival, at Durham, England, in 1884.—A.A.P.”

## Who threw that stone?

*(Left) extracted from The Journal of the Army Apprentices’ School Balcombe 1956*

Who recalls reading or being told that the AAS was situated a stone’s throw from the beach?

According to Google Maps, it’s about 2km “as the crow flies”, from Mace Oval to Mt Martha Beach, so the *Association of Resort Publicity Officers* would still not be amused!

Apparently, the record of 422ft (128.6m) still stands. Robert Percival was a left-hander who threw a 155g ball on Durham Sands racecourse on Easter Monday, 18 April 1882

([www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)). Actually, Easter Monday in 1882 was 10 April, so it was possibly 1881, and not 1884 either.

And then, there is even doubt that this feat ever actually occurred, as 100m appears to be the commonly accepted maximum distance that a cricket ball can be thrown.

One thing is for sure, the person who threw a stone from Balcombe to Mt Martha Beach must have been very powerful, perhaps an Apprentice who was strong enough to put up with the primitive conditions presented to those initial enlistees at the School?

## Balcombe Memorial Gates

*By Lutz Preusche, 27<sup>th</sup> Intake Electronics Tradesman*

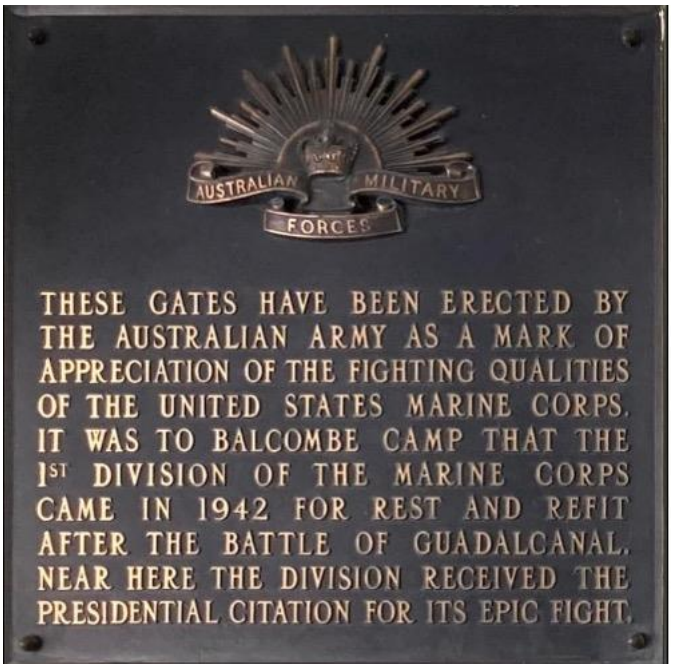
“When Balcombe closed, the fate of the Memorial Gates was unknown so the plaques were removed for “safe keeping” and replica plaques were then installed sometime later. Why were the originals never returned to their rightful place? The gates are now recognised under the Victorian War Heritage Inventory and their future is presumably no longer in doubt. Is it now time to seek the full reinstatement of the Memorial Gates including the return of the Plaques?

The accompanying plaque at Mount Martha House reads:

“THESE PLAQUES WERE ORIGINALLY INSTALLED AND DEDICATED ON THE MAIN ENTRANCE GATES TO THE BALCOMBE ARMY CAMP IN 1954. ESTABLISHED IN 1938, BALCOMBE ARMY CAMP CLOSED IN 1983 AND THESE PLAQUES WERE REMOVED FOR SAFE KEEPING

HERE, ON THE 23RD APRIL, 1988, AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY INVOLVING DETACHMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, ARMY 36 REGIONAL CADET UNIT AND THE SHIRE OF MORNINGTON, THE SHIRE PRESIDENT, CR. WILLIAM HANSON, J.P. RE DEDICATED THE PLAQUES IN THIS LOCATION AT MOUNT MARTHA HOUSE.”

The top two images (below) are of the replica plaques currently installed on the Gates; the bottom two images are the original plaques that were removed for safekeeping and are now located at Mount Martha House.”



## **New Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicles**

*Image and article courtesy of Defence 27 July 2023 via RAQ Friday Files0*

### **“Breaking News – Redback to bring Army some sting.**

The Army will receive 129 new infantry fighting vehicles in response to Australia’s changing strategic environment.

Making the announcement today, the Australian Government said Hanwha’s state-of-the-art Redbacks would be built at the company’s facilities in the Geelong region, supporting Australia’s strategic imperative to develop sovereign defence manufacturing capabilities.

At a cost of between \$5 billion and \$7 billion, the LAND 400 Phase 3 project will be one of the largest capability acquisitions in Army’s history.



Replacing the M113 armoured personnel carriers, which were acquired in 1964, the first Redback will be delivered in early 2027.

With its latest-generation armour, cannon and missiles, they will provide the protection, mobility and firepower required to transport and protect soldiers in close combat, giving them the highest chance of achieving their mission and returning safely.

The government said the acquisition was part of its drive to modernise the Army to ensure it could respond to the land challenges in the region.”



*Pictured above: A Redback infantry fighting vehicle on display in Canberra. Army will take delivery of 129 of the vehicles, to be built in Geelong. Photo: Andrew Green*

## Veterans report proposes an Army cadet apprentice school

For the full article on this report, see <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/industry/12533-veterans-put-forward-army-cadet-apprentice-school-proposal> - 8 Aug 2023

Whilst this topic has been referred to the Association in the past, there is no charter within the Association’s Objectives to either support or oppose such proposals.

The Association’s Objectives can be viewed here (<https://austarmyapprentice.org/objectives/>)

## Our Committee

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

At the AGM in October, there were a number of changes to the Committee. Welcome aboard to our new Secretary, Simon Brooks, 40<sup>th</sup> Intake Motor Mechanic; Heritage Officer, Rob Minato, 31<sup>st</sup> Electronics Tradesman; Committee Member, Steve Doudle, 25<sup>th</sup> VM (Past Secretary), and confirmed Regional Reps: Ted Buchan, 46<sup>th</sup> Electronics Tradesman for Vic Metro; and Bill Allom, 25<sup>th</sup> Vehicle Mechanic for NT.

To those standing down, thank you for your support; to the new members, thanks for putting your hands up.

**Patron** ..... MAJGEN Andrew Freeman AM (Retd), 40<sup>th</sup> Elec Fitter

### Office-bearers

**President** ..... Keith Lowe, 22<sup>nd</sup> F&T  
**Vice-president** ..... Greg Haggett, 40<sup>th</sup> P&G

**Secretary** ..... Simon Brooks, 40<sup>th</sup> MM  
**Treasurer & Acting** ..... Richard Pike, 21<sup>st</sup> VM  
**Merchandise Officer** .... (Merchandise Officer vacant)



**Heritage Officer**..... Rob Minato, 31<sup>st</sup> ET  
**Membership Sec** ..... Graeme Smail, 35<sup>th</sup> ET

**Committee Members**

**Welfare Officer**..... Barry Minster OAM, 20<sup>th</sup> RM  
**Public Officer** ..... Ray Wilson, 15<sup>th</sup> Plumber

**Ordinary Committee Members**

**Member 1** ..... Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> RM, Life  
 ..... Member, Newsletter Editor  
**Member 2** ..... Bob Clarke, 22<sup>nd</sup> VM  
**Member 3** ..... Mick O’Donnell, 22<sup>nd</sup> Bricklayer  
**Member 4** ..... Bill Amor, 20<sup>th</sup> F&T  
**Member 5** ..... Steve Doudle, 25<sup>th</sup> VM  
**Member 6** ..... Wayne Davis, 50<sup>th</sup> Elec Fitter

**Appointees**

**Hon Trustee**.....Jim Hislop OAM, 9<sup>th</sup> F&T  
**Auditor** .....Gary Lancaster, 22<sup>nd</sup> F&T

**Legal Adviser**..... Rod Perkins, 24<sup>th</sup> F&T  
**Chaplain** ..... Rev Canon Alan Kelb OAM, 25<sup>th</sup> F&T

**Regional Representatives**

**WA**..... Bob Coventry, 22<sup>nd</sup> RM  
**NT** ..... Charles (Bill) Allom, 25<sup>th</sup> VM  
**North Qld** ..... vacant  
**South Qld** ..... Brian Daley OAM, 14<sup>th</sup> VM,  
 ..... Life Member  
**NSW** ..... Richard Pike, 21<sup>st</sup> VM  
**ACT** ..... Jeff Heron, 21<sup>st</sup> RM, Life Member  
**Vic Metro** ..... Ted Buchan, 46<sup>th</sup> ET  
**Southern Vic** ..... vacant  
**Central Vic**..... vacant  
**Northern Vic** ..... Rob Minato, 31<sup>st</sup> ET  
**Tas** ..... Steve Bramich, 23<sup>rd</sup> C&J  
**SA** ..... Michael Thompson, 26<sup>th</sup> VM

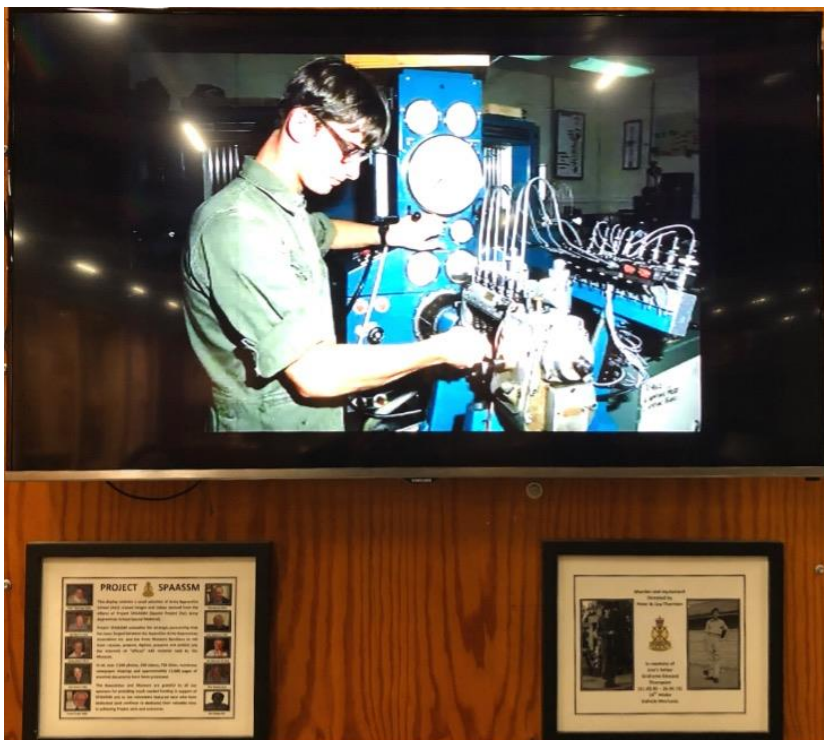
**Contributions to The Apprentice About**

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](mailto:news@austarmyapprentice.org) or mail them to the address on the first page. Submissions close on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding each edition.

**Disclaimer**

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

**SPAASSM display at the Army Museum**



In the Army Museum at Bandiana, the SPAASSM Collection images are presented on a TV monitor and equipment donated by Peter & Lisa Thornton, in memory of Lisa’s father Grahame Edward Thompson, 14<sup>th</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic, who passed away on 26 Apr 1972. Peter was a 35<sup>th</sup> Electronics Tradesman, Apprentice BSM and Governor-General’s Medal winner.

In late 2006, Peter discovered a large quantity of photographic material and documents relating to the Army Apprentices Schools (AAS) at the Army Museum, Bandiana, Victoria. The items included photographs, slides, negatives, video tapes, movie films, journals, graduation booklets, standing orders, handbooks and histories. The overall quality of the material was in good condition, but the storage location (dexion shelving) was less than ideal.

The material is owned by the Army History Unit through the Army Museum, Bandiana.



The items were rescued by LTCOL Jim Hislop (Retd) OAM, 9<sup>th</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner and AAAA Trustee from almost certain destruction, at the closing of the AAS Balcombe and AAS Bonegilla and given to the Museum.

Peter decided that, in order to preserve the material, it needed to be surveyed, digitised, catalogued and put into archival standard storage.

Because of the size of the task, Peter realised that a formal approach would be necessary to acquire the necessary resources. He developed Project Proposals, Terms of Reference and all the necessary documentation to get the Project started. Finally, in early 2007, Project SPAASSM (Special Project for Arry Apprentices School Special Material) was established with the generous support of the then Chief of Army LTGEN Ken Gillespie, AO DSC CSM, 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake Carpenter & Joiner and Past Patron.

Peter was appointed Project Manager and a Project team set up, consisting of: Peter; Ian Morris, 12<sup>th</sup> Intake Radio Mechanic; Frank Poole (RIP), 10<sup>th</sup> Intake Architectural Draughtsman and past President; Bill Mertin, 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Vehicle Mechanic; Chris Moon, 32<sup>nd</sup> Intake Carpenter & Joiner; Rod Eagleton, 24<sup>th</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner; Chic Henry (RIP), 19<sup>th</sup> Intake Blacksmith; Ray Dawes, 21<sup>st</sup> Intake Fitter & Turner; and Ian MacLean, 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Musician.

The longer-term outcome and aims of this project were to make the digitised material publicly available via the Web for the general enjoyment of all ex-Apprentices and visitors and to eventually make more complete the catalogue record for each item of the archive.