

THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

Volume 6 | Issue 2

February 2024



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, 22nd Fitter and Turner, President AAAA, president@austarmyapprentice.org, 23 January 2024

As I write this report, I can reflect that it's 57 years ago this week that my Intake (22nd) arrived at Balcombe and already the first month of 2024 is almost history.

Regrettably since our last Newsletter in November we have been advised of the loss of another nine Apprentices, three of whom were Association Members – Noel Scott (8th), Clive Connor (9th) and Donald Lamb (24th). All lost at a time when families should be experiencing a happy time of year. I appreciate the efforts of those Association Members who attended funerals during this time. I offer my personal condolences to the families and friends of all nine Apprentices for your sad loss.

Lest We Forget

During our very successful reunion in the Albury Wodonga area last year, your Committee received some positive feedback particularly from those who attended our AGM that there is interest in having a dinner in Maroochydore in the evening following the next Annual General Meeting on Saturday 26 October 2024. As a consequence, I am pleased to advise your Committee has taken the decision to make a booking at the Maroochydore RSL Club for that date for an informal dinner for interested Association Members and their Partners.

Your Committee meets again on Saturday 3 February 2024 and I expect full details of what is proposed will be circulated shortly after. At this stage I can advised we will be seeking firm commitments from all interested well in advance of the event.

Until next time all the very best to all.

An Apprentice Warrant Officer of the Air Force? [see here](#)

Ralph Clifton joined the RAAF in January 1986 as a 40th Intake Apprentice Airframe Fitter. After numerous postings and operational deployments including Warden, Falconer, Sumatra Assist, Catalyst, Slipper, Astute, Resolute, Gateway, Solania, and Parapet, he was promoted and appointed as WOFF-AF on 1 December 2022.

Also in this edition:

Apprentices in the news	2	Merchandise.....	11
Welfare and Vale notices	3	History.....	12
Membership matters.....	5	What is an apprentice?.....	15
Events reports.....	6	Our Committee.....	16
Upcoming events.....	6	Contributions to The Apprentice About.....	16
SPAASSM Collection.....	9	Disclaimer.....	16
Letters to the President	10		



Apprentices in the news

Australia Day Honours 2024 – Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Congratulations to Jeffrey Grant MAURICE, 33rd Intake Motor Mechanic, for service to veterans, and to business.

Colonel (Retd) Andy Adams CSC, NSW/ACT RAEME Corps Commandant, President RAEME – ACT, 35th Intake Electronics Tradesman

Photo by Ian Cook, courtesy RAEME Facebook



Friday 1 December 2023 was the 81st birthday of the RAEME Corps, celebrated around Australia. One such celebration was in Canberra attended by more than 25 current and past Corps members, most of whom were recent graduates of ADFA.

Pictured at left cutting the cake is the senior member present, Colonel (Retd) Andy Adams CSC, 35th ET, NSW/ACT RAEME Corps Commandant, and President RAEME – ACT. The youngest member of the day, cutting the cake with Andy is SCDT (now LT) Rhys Brown.

Andy spoke about the future of the Corps and how those new Corps members need to learn from those who preceded them and how they will influence the future of RAEME and technical support in the Army. He said that they should gather the information available to make a decision, then make the decision even if it gets them into trouble!

Right: Andy from earlier days – SPAASSM Phi Image 02139



Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn OAM, 19th Intake Radio Mechanic, inducted as a Legatee

From Mike Prain via RAQ Friday Files 15 Dec 2023



“Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn OAM and RAQ Member, has added yet another string to his bow when he was recently inducted as a Legatee into the Sunshine Coast Legacy Group. Ian has been an active volunteer with APEX, the Maroochydore RSL Sub Branch as a DVA ATDP level 2 Delegate, the Mooloolaba Coast Guard and has now put up his hand to assist ADF veterans’ widows, widowers and families across the Sunshine Coast.

Left: Ian, standing centre of picture, during his Induction



Ian joins the 40 other volunteers who support nearly 700 Sunshine Coast Legacy clients, including children and family members with disabilities. Legacy is a source of support and advocacy through the most challenging time in a Veteran's widow's/widower's life, from accessing war pensions and other entitlements through to providing ongoing companionship and involvement in social activities. Ian's wife Ros, is a former Legatee.

2023 has seen Legacy celebrate 100 years of support to ex-service families in crisis across Australia."

Summernats – Ray Redman, 40th Intake Motor Mechanic

Many Facebook readers will have seen Paul Foura's (43rd Intake Fitter & Turner) post on 7 Jan 2024 "spotting" a car at Summernats Burnout Masters with a 40/85 "Tac sign" on the back window. Most will now know that Ray Redman, 40th Intake Motor Mechanic is one of those responsible for the car. This prompted a request to Ray to provide more details, and he provided the following. Thank you Ray.



Photos courtesy of Paul Foura (L) and Ray Redman (R)

"Holden 1978 HZ 1 Tonner. Currently fitted with LS1 Engine, Kelford cam, Higgins Heads, plus other modifications. T350 transmission. A 9 inch diff, 3.5 ratio. Burning E85 fuel & producing 410 rwhp. We have been doing burnout competitions & track days for approximately 7 years at places in ACT, NSW & Vic. The car has been built in various colours & with differing engine, transmission & diff combinations over the years as well as designing & making the tray. It is a labour of love & over the years has had many family members & friends working on it to get it ready for events. The name Jstintym (Just in Time) reflects the first entry into Summernats as it was the last car through scrutineering that year. Doug is our oldest son who drives the car as he has been blessed with the largest kahoona, with myself (Ray 40th VM) being the co-pilot, pit crew & sounding board when he says - I have been thinking. He is a HVAC technician by trade & works on large commercial sites so this is his hobby. Doug has been the driving force & technical brains behind the current colour & mechanical combinations & in our opinion has done a fantastic job of it especially since it is almost fully built in our shed. Cheers Ray (Doug) Redman."

Welfare and Vale notices

Contact: Association Welfare Officer Barry Minster OAM, 20th Intake Radio Mech, 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.



Everything you need to know about the Veteran White Card

[From Vetaffairs — Vol 39 No.3 December 2023](#)

The Veteran White Card provides funded treatment for: service-related conditions, mental health conditions through Non-Liability Health Care (mental health), and cancer (malignant neoplasm) and/or pulmonary tuberculosis through Non-Liability Health Care. See [Veteran White Card](#) or [here](#) for more details.

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 editions' Vale summary below includes two historic entries.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
35	180577	Clinton Roger KUNST	Motor Mechanic	7 Jul 2011
4	342529	George William MAJOR	Vehicle Mechanic	7 Jul 2023
7	64277	Grahame Archibald DENNIS	Carpenter and Joiner	18 Nov 2023
12	48569	Dennis John ANSPACH	Carpenter and Joiner	23 Nov 2023
9	242839	Clive Francis Patrick CONNOR	Fitter and Turner	1 Dec 2023
13	243088	Liam Patrick HEALY	Vehicle Mechanic	9 Dec 2023
15	243212	Terry James NAYLOR	Carpenter and Joiner	17 Dec 2023
8	64296	Leon Aloysius THOMAS	Musician	22 Dec 2023
17	243268	Royston DICE	Clerk	25 Dec 2023
24	219202	Donald John LAMB	Vehicle Mechanic	5 Jan 2024
8	342621	Noel Michael SCOTT	Electrician	5 Jan 2024
10	342694	John Collison WILSON	Vehicle Mechanic	29 Jan 2024

Vale – Dennis John ANSPACH, 7th Intake Carpenter & Joiner, 23 Nov 2023

By Keith Lowe, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner, AAAA President

Dennis was a 12th Intake Carpenter and Joiner, a keen Association member until ill health impacted on him. Greg Mulcahy, a friend of Dennis from the 10th Intake has advised Dennis had been in fully dependent care for about five years. He was a very keen supporter of Apprentice activities in that he organised a number of functions for the 12th Intake and contributed significantly to the engraved paver program. On behalf of the Association, we extend our sincere condolences to Dennis' widow, family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Lest We Forget

[An obituary to Dennis has been compiled by his OCS classmates \(www.patmar.net.au/DennisAnspach.pdf\)](http://www.patmar.net.au/DennisAnspach.pdf) [Ed]

Vale – Noel Michael SCOTT, 8th Intake Electrician (Elec Mech), 5 Jan 2024

From Rev Cindy Waters, School Chaplain, Balcombe Grammar School

“Good morning,

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas.

I write to inform you (just in case you haven't already heard), that our dearly loved 'friend of Balcombe' Mr Noel Scott passed away on Friday 5 January, having just turned 87 on Christmas Day.

Noel trained and served as a former Balcombe Army Apprentice, 8th Intake and has been our guest speaker over the years at the School's Anzac Service and on many occasions recited The Ode.

A number of his grandchildren have been students at Balcombe Grammar over the years.



The Funeral for Noel [was] held Friday 12 January at 10am at Tobin Brothers Mount Martha (it [was] streamed live via the Tobin Brothers website).

Noel was a truly humble and beautiful man who selflessly loved and served the community, and we are deeply thankful for his life, and his legacy which lives on in and through his family and the many communities he has contributed to.

Take care all. Kind regards”

Noel is pictured below, third from the right at the Balcombe Grammar Anzac Day service in 2019. Others in the photo were: L-R: Steve Doudle (25th) (partly hidden), Des Poulton (6th), Mark ?, Ron Cook (11th), Terry Dillon (11th), Noel, Wayne McPhail (25th), and Craig Malcolm (31st)



Vale – Norman (Norm) Herbert GOLDSPINK MBE RA Inf, Jan 2024

After turning 96 last December, Norm Goldspink has passed away in Jan 2024. He served: in Korea from 7 Apr 1952 to 28 Feb 1953; two years in Japan; as a SGT Regimental Training Instructor at AAS in 1957; completing instructor training at the School of Infantry, Fort Benning, USA; as an instructor at Officer Training Unit (OTU) Scheyville; in Vietnam from 07 Jan 1967 to 02 Aug 1967; and as RSM at RMC in the early '70s, before returning to Balcombe as the RSM from Jan 1975 to Dec 1977. Norm ended his service as a CAPT in 1982.

Membership matters

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

Membership status

The current state of the membership is 919 financial members (right).

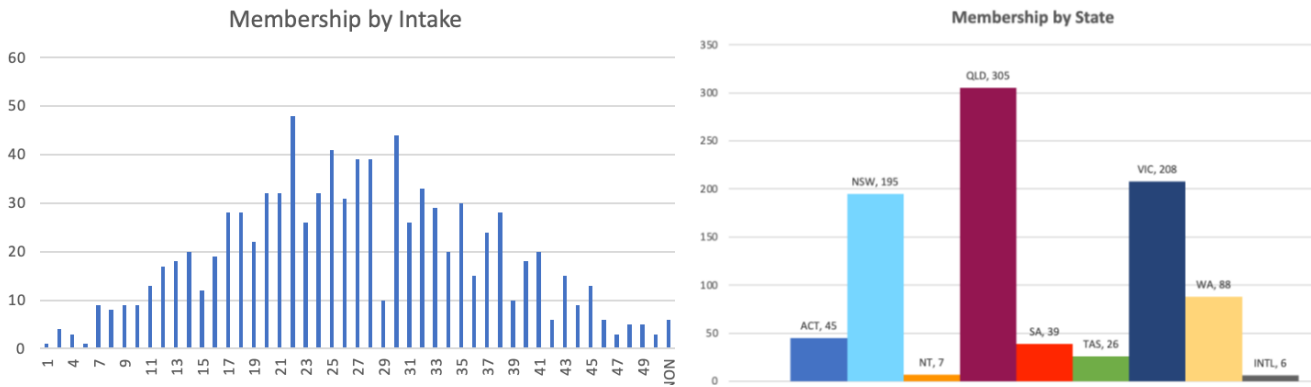
These figures show a healthy increase in membership since the AGM where membership numbers were reported as 876. The majority of this increase has been membership renewals although new memberships (11) also featured.

Membership type	As at 24/01/24
Life	3
Ordinary	646
Retired	263
Associate	7
TOTAL	919

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



Membership Analysis



Association lifetime subscription survey

There has been some interest in exploring an option to offer a lifetime subscription (a once off payment to cover membership for the remainder of your time). This was discussed at the Committee meeting last October and it was agreed that a membership survey be conducted on the purchase of lifetime subscriber status and views on what a fair fee would be for this. Please email the Membership Secretary (membership@austarmyapprentice.org) expressing your interest or otherwise and what you think would be a reasonable amount to pay if such an option were available. If there is sufficient ground swell, then the Committee will consider further – stay tuned.

Events reports

ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday, 6 December 2023

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

A group of 22 celebrated the end of 2023, including seven partners. Intakes 2, 7, 14A, 15, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, and 33 were represented. Lucky door prizes, 14 of them, ranged from “crab” socks, chocolates, wine glasses, Bunnings and Coles gift cards, kitchen items, beauty products, a ham, a Xmas cake, a pizza oven, and wine tasting vouchers, to an official souvenir 2023 Women’s World Cup football. A donation of \$168 was made to the AAAA for the Army Apprentices Memorial. The next lunch will be held on wed 6 March.



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

- * **NT Apprentices get-together**, Cazaly Sports Club Palmerston, 10 Feb 2024, 12 noon, contact Bill Allom, 25th Intake Vehicle Mechanic via Facebook (*Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth*, 6 Jan 2024).
- * **ACT Region Quarterly Lunch**, Ainslie FC, Wed 6 Mar 2024, 1200. Please let me know if you intend to be there, news@austarmyapprentice.org.
- * **19th Intake (VMs plus others) 60 Year Reunion**, Bribie Island RSL, 23-26 April 2024, **all intakes welcome**, contact Pete Leslie, 19th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, 0413 620945, pete128@outlook.com.

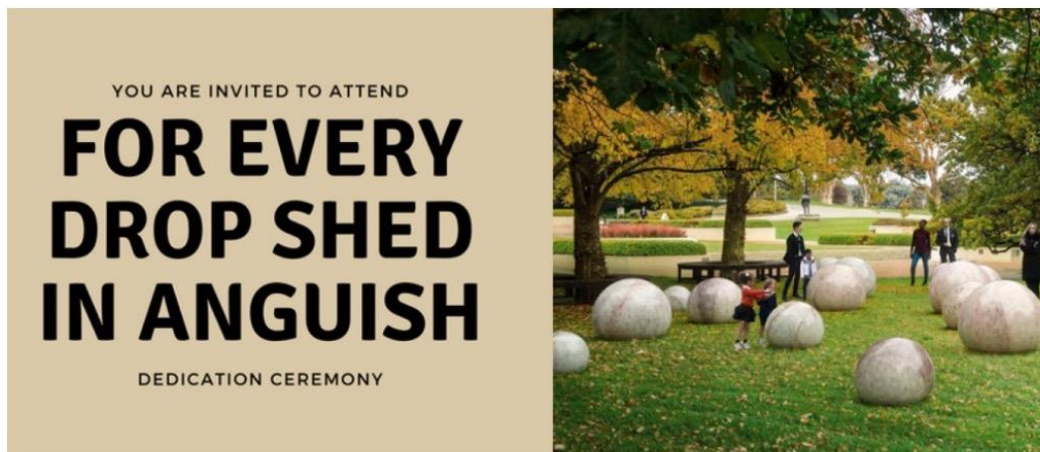


- * **Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch for SE Qld**, Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Brisbane, Tue 16 Jul 2024. Staff and other friends of Portsea are most welcome to attend. [More information here.](#)
- * **34th Class AAS Balcombe Reunion**, Mornington, 25-26 Apr 2024:
 - * **Thur 25 Apr:**
0500, Mornington Anzac Day march from Barkly St, group photo
0700, Mornington RSL post-march, lunch paid by individuals
1700, Dava Hotel Mt Martha, dinner, pay as you order.
 - * **Fri 26 Apr 2024:**
visit Balcombe site and visit Pt Nepean national park, Portsea
1700, Portsea Hotel, dinner, Grazing Pizza menu, \$40 per head.
 - * **Accommodation:** to be arranged by individuals.
 - * **Merchandise:** customised 34th Class Reunion baseball caps and stubby coolers to purchase.
 - * **Contacts:** Bernie Glynn, bwglynn@gmail.com or Stephan Wagner, stephanw@bigpond.net.au.
- * **AAAA AGM and informal dinner**, Maroochydore RSL, Saturday 26 Oct 2024, details TBA.
- * **C Coy juniors of 1967 (RMs and EFs/EMs) get together**, Gold Coast, 1-8 Nov 2024, contact Patrick Campbell, 22nd Radio Mechanic, patoz@telstra.com.
- * **35th Intake 45th Reunion**, April 2025, contact Dave Clements, clemacdc1@gmail.com.
- * **30th Intake 50th Reunion**, TBA 2025, contact Don Hewett, dhewett5865@gmail.com.



Other associations, etc

- * **For Every Drop Shed in Anguish**, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 22 Feb 2024, dedication ceremony for the new Sufferings of War and Service sculpture, "For Every Drop Shed in Anguish" by Australian artist Alex Seton who created the sculpture to provide a place at the Memorial for those who have experienced and witnessed the ongoing trauma that can result from service, and for visitors to reflect on this experience, open to the public, [register to attend here.](#)



- * **Australian Army Aviation Units**, Hilton Hotel Brisbane, 26 Apr 2024, if you've ever worked at any Aviation unit you're invited, \$100 per person, includes venue, food, entertainment and security, partners are invited, <https://www.aaavn-reunion.org>, aaavn.reunion.2024@gmail.com.
- * **Holdfast 2024**, 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 39th Intake enlisted, for information see Paul Jordan's Facebook post in the *Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth Group* on 17 Dec 2023, contact holdfast2024@gmail.com.
- * **101 Fd Wksp Reunion '88-'94**, Ingleburn RSL, Sat 17 Aug 2024, from 1700hrs, contact karencairns@bigpond.com.



-
- * **HQ 1st Aust Task Force and D&E PI**, Torrens Trg Depot, Adelaide, 21-25 Nov 2024, contact John Verhelst, 0437 212121, jeverhelst@gmail.com, www.hq1atf.org.
 - * **50th Anniversary of building Lord Howe Island Airport**, 2024, organisers are putting together a nominal roll, if you or anyone you know was involved, contact gary.barker3@bigpond.com to be added to the roll and kept in the loop on further developments, from Facebook, Win Coles, 23rd Radio Mech, posted on 14 Oct 2021.
 - * **RAEME ACT**, contact <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>.
 - * **RAEME QLD**, contact functions@qld.raeme.org.au, <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, 1st Thursday of the month, 1830 hrs, contact Jonathan Crust, 48th C&J via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth.
-
- * **RASigs Certa Cito 100th Anniversary Warning Order**

CERTA CITO 100



Commemorating 100 years of the Corps, reflecting on the past, present, and future, by ARA/ARES Signals units across Australia, culminating in Nov 2025.

From Bruce Long, via Certa Cito Summer 2023

"The event dates are 11th to 18th November 2025, Healesville, Victoria. We hope that you will that you may look at coming at least one week before and/or stay one week after the main event/s.

We have booked the Rochford Winery at Healesville for the formal dinner on Saturday night, 15th November, this is planned to be a special night to celebrate this very special event.

Recently we have made a deal with the Big 4 Caravan Park at Healesville for priority access and discount for people wanting to attend the reunion. The park has recently been up-graded and has all sorts of accommodation, not just for caravans, more information on the accommodation will be provided in the next few days.

The deal with the Big 4 Park can only be done through a link that will be supplied soon, PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PARK, THEY CAN'T HELP YOU. The deal is for a short time and you must pay one day's deposit.

Regarding the Formal Reunion Dinner, I will be supplying Bank Details for your deposit for the dinner, the dinner has limited numbers so once the details are up, please book and pay the deposit ASAP or you miss out. We are hoping to run a few other events during the reunion, but they need to be finalised in the near future. Please spread the word and hope to see you there. Keep a look out for the information coming up soon so you don't miss out. Regards from Bruce Long."

* **RASigs Museum, Simpson Barracks – Watsonia**

From Certa Cito Summer 2023 Major Fiona Davis. Fiona.davis@defence.gov.au

Major Fiona Davis, RASigs Museum Manager is asking for some volunteers to help around the Museum in general clean-up duties and preparations for the upcoming 'Certa Cito – 100' celebrations in 2025. You will be under the direct supervision of Major Davis and you will work directly for her in the tasks allocated:

- * Making back of house tidy
- * IT help (bring the displays into the 21st century)
- * Making of display cabinets – where needed.

This all can happen on either the normal Tuesday open day or on Thursdays.



SPAASSM Collection

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

February 2024 competition

Q: What was the name of this building?



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

November 2023 competition solution (SPAASSM Ph I Image 05149)

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

A: B Company, at the Latchford Barracks swimming pool.

There was only one correct answer. Congratulations to Ian McDonald, 38th Intake Motor Mechanic, your SPAASSM Collection USB has been mailed to you. Enjoy!



History – Latchford Barracks swimming pool

[From Hansard HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEVELOPMENT OF ARMY SITE STAGE 1, BONEGILLA, VICTORIA Report of Public Works Committee SPEECH Wednesday, 22 November 1978 Page 3190 retrieved 10 July 2023](#)

Mr Melville BUNGEY (Canning) tabled a report of the Public Works Committee regarding the planned development of the Army site at Bonegilla. He drew attention to three matters in the report. One of the matters related to the proposed construction of a 50 metre, nine lane, unheated swimming pool, “which is the entitlement for a military installation with more than 1,000 personnel, at an estimated cost of \$400,000”. The Committee, however, recommended that the pool be heated and that space for spectator seating be provided for “an estimated additional cost of \$330,000”. The arguments for this recommendation included:

- the climate in Albury Wodonga is such that “the local unheated pool at Wodonga is closed for almost half the year”
- “the use of the swimming pool at Bonegilla would be restricted from November to January owing to final examinations of apprentices, graduation parades and the December-January vacation period”
- Bonegilla “trainees should have adequate recreational facilities all year round”
- “it would not be economically efficient to spend \$400,000 on a facility which can be used for only approximately four months of the year and which the Army assures the Committee can be fully used for training, sport and recreational needs throughout the year”



- e. "the document entitled 'Services, Scales and Standards of Accommodation' published by the Department of Defence and which states, among other things, in paragraph 2 1 (E) regarding swimming pools: one pool on any military installation may be heated and covered if training requirements and/or location justify it subject to prior approval by the Departments of Defence and Treasury."



*Above – SPAASSM Ph I Image 05227. Note that the pool **was** built with heating but with only eight lanes.*

Letters to the President

Thank you

From Ian Cashel, 22nd Intake Blacksmith

"Dear Keith,

I would like to thank the Patron, you and all the staff for the great work they have done this year and previous years. I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you, Ian Cashel"

Balcombe Commemoration May 2013

From Bruce Keevers, 16th Intake Radio Mechanic

"Dear Keith,

I am not sure if this event was covered in the TAA at the time, but just in case it wasn't I have attached several items that might stir some memories. Due to their size they are being sent via Google Drive.

I hope they are accessible and can be included as links in the next edition of TAA if you agree.

In the case of the FM103.7 item, possibly City Park Radio in Launceston (who produced the commentary) might have to agree to its inclusion.



PS. In support of the event, I had the pleasure of closely working with Frank "Speed" Maloney and Ron Jervis, both RIP.

Best regards, Bruce Keevers, 16RM"

The first item Bruce forwarded was a copy of a radio broadcast by City Park Radio, Launceston, TAS, which occurred on Monday 22 April, Sunday 28 April, and 6 May 2013. The broadcasts covered the AAS Balcombe Commemoration in May 2013, which we featured in the [August 2013 edition of TAA](#).

We are still waiting for City Park Radio to provide a link to the broadcast on their Website.

The second item was a copy of the AWM film ([Collection no C969466, Accession Number F00205](#)) "Australia's soldier tradesmen". The Description includes, "This is a recruiting/public relations film. Sub-title: In one of Australia's finest trade schools, young lads are trained to become skilled craftsmen. Film features Balcombe Army Apprentice Training School, located on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria."

Merchandise

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

For enquiries, contact the Treasurer: treasurer@austarmyapprentice.org

MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
DVDs	50 th Anniversary Albury Wodonga 1998	\$10.00	\$10.00
	60 th Anniversary 2008	\$10.00	\$10.00
	2013 Balcombe Commemoration	\$10.00	\$10.00
70 th 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 – <i>to order, incl preferred (1st) name, & Intake/Class</i>	\$16.50	\$3.50
	Tie	\$25.00	\$10.00
	Key ring – <i>when ordering, ask if a no you would like is available</i>	\$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	\$85.00	\$14.00
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 (<i>only one left – contact the Treasurer</i>)	\$10.00	\$14.00





History

Australian Army Museum Fremantle, WA

From a Facebook post on 6 Dec 2023 by Pete Murdoch, 38th Intake Electronics Tradesman

“Living in WA with a bit of spare time? Loving retirement but missing the Esprit de Corps of Army Life? Itching to play with cool toys from your time serving our great Country?”

The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia is part of the Army History Unit and is one of the largest Military Museums in the country.

Located in Fremantle and staffed by Army Personnel and Volunteers, the Museum’s home is the historic Artillery Barracks in Burt Street, and houses an incredible collection telling the story of WA’s military history from the pre-Boar War (in fact, as far back as first settlement in WA) to Afghanistan.

The Museum is always looking for volunteers, and with armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, radios, vehicles, weapons, uniforms, medals and personal equipment, there is sure to be something to keep you interested, fill that gap from your days in the Green while keeping you connected with the community.

The Museum has its own Facebook Page (here: <https://www.facebook.com/armymuseumwa/>) and website (here: <https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>) and if you’re keen, send an email to info@armymuseumwa.com.au. One of the team will be in touch. If nothing else, come and have a look, you will be amazed at what’s on offer.

Full disclosure, I am posting into the Museum next year (not as an exhibit... I think) and it would be great to see some other Appies coming on board to share in this this amazing place.”

1954 – AAS Journal and the Royal Visit – 70 years ago

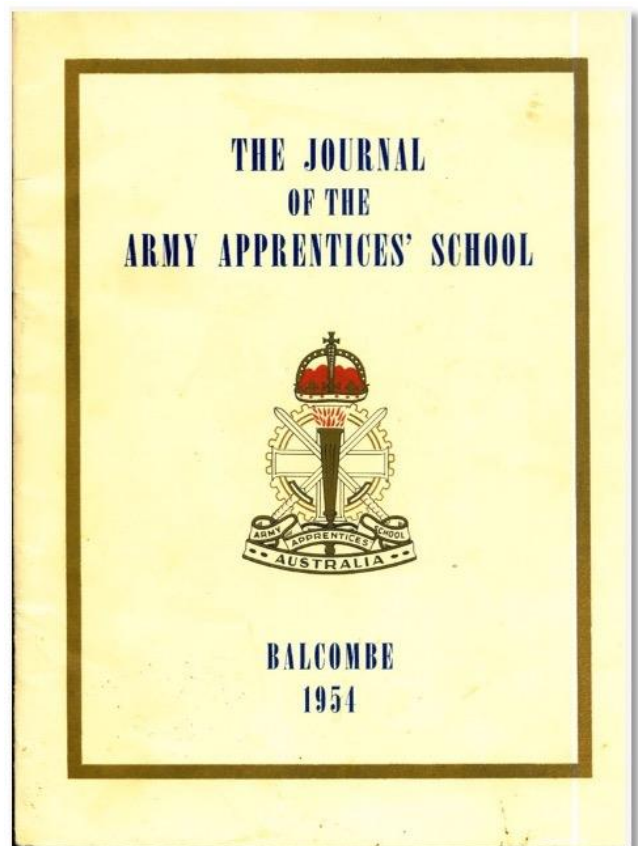
Most of the AAS and Army College of TAFE Journals from 1952 to 1995, and Graduation Booklets can be found by members on the AAAA Website under “[Archive](#)”.

The first thing that can be seen from the 1954 Journal (right) is that the AAS badge on the cover still has the “King’s crown”, although Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in June 1953. A history of the Apprentice Hat Badge and subsequent emblems is under “[All About](#)” on the Website.

As can be read on pages 9 and 11 of the 1954 Journal (next page), its issue was delayed to allow coverage of the events of 1953, including: the Southern Command Tattoo; graduations of the 4th, 5th (the last June intake), and 6th Classes; the Queen’s Coronation; the annual Coral Sea March; the arrival of the first contingent of WRAAC personnel at the School; and the arrival at Balcombe of the Army School of Music.

Of course, 1954 was the year for the Royal Visit, for which three officers and 50 Apprentices went to Canberra in mid-February, and the School lined the streets of Melbourne later that month.

On page 36, the 1954 Journal also provides a brief story on the raising of the Officer Cadet School (OCS) at Portsea in 1951, with the first graduation in 1952. As can be seen at the bottom of the next page, the first Apprentice to graduate from OCS was Angus Moray GILLESPIE, 4th Intake Plumber, in Dec 1953. He was the 1952 AAS CSM and Governor-General’s Medallist.





SOUTHERN COMMAND TATTOO

Again in 1953 the School provided a Physical Training Display at the Southern Command Tattoo. And again the weather did its best to delay our training. This time matters were made more difficult by a cancellation through rain of the dress rehearsal. However, again training told, and we pride ourselves that, with the able assistance of the School Band, we put on our best effort yet and provided one of the highlights of an excellent Coronation Tattoo. As evidence that we are not alone in thinking this, we quote the following comment from a letter received by the G.O.C., Southern Command from the Minister of the Army: "I would like you to convey my congratulations to the C.O. and apprentices at Balcombe for their very fine display of physical culture—I realise the time and training that must have gone into such an exercise."

GRADUATIONS

This issue having been delayed until the new year to give a cover of the complete activities of 1953, we have three graduations to report.

That of the Fourth Class in December, 1952, was held in good weather on the Mace Oval and was a splendid parade, at which the C.G.S., Lt.-Gen. Sir Sydney Rowell, reviewed the parade and addressed the School.

The June Graduation of the Fifth Class (our last mid-year graduation) was marred by heavy rain, which made it impossible to hold a parade. The ceremony was performed in Anzac Hall, which robbed it of much of its colour. The Adjutant-General, Maj.-Gen. E. W. Woodward, presented the graduation certificates and special awards, and addressed the School. At this parade for the first time we had the ceremony of the graduating Apprentice R.S.M. handing over his stick to the incoming Apprentice R.S.M.

December, 1953, saw us back on the oval in good weather for the graduation of the Sixth Class. This time the reviewing officer was the Q.M.G., Maj.-Gen. J. A. Chapman, who was taking his last parade before retiring four days later. As a memento of the occasion the School presented the General early in 1954 with a photographic record of the parade.

CORONATION DAY

On Coronation Day the School took part in the morning, with other troops from the area, in an inspiring Coronation Parade at Mornington. In the afternoon we entertained the Naval Cadets from Flinders Naval Base at a special football carnival on Mace Oval. Rugby, Soccer and Australian Rules matches were played and we were fortunate enough to win all three. At dinner that night all messes drank the health of Her Majesty.

CORONATION CONTINGENT

The School was doubly linked with the Australian Coronation Contingent which journeyed to London. One of our staff, Sgt. R. Jaques, was a representative of the W.R.A.A.C., and an ex-apprentice, L./Cpl. R. J. Scott, who won the first Governor-General's Medal, was a Physical Training Instructor with the contingent. We congratulate them on the honour they received and envy them their experiences.

CORAL SEA MARCH

The annual Coral Sea March in Melbourne was a special day for the School this year. Not only did we provide a large contingent in the march, but our band was given the honour of playing for the Army component.

W.R.A.A.C.

One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three saw another change in our way of life. Early in the year we found our staff augmented by a number of W.R.A.A.C. personnel, who, apart from being of great assistance in unit concerts, lend a hitherto unknown decorative element to our environment, and incidentally do quite a lot of work around the place. We welcome them among us.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In 1953 we also welcomed to the area another unit. Coming to live with us at Balcombe as the Bandboys' Training Centre, they are now the Army School of Music. Relations from the start have been good and we thank them for the assistance they have given us on the musical side. We look forward to continued happy relations.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDALLISTS

Since our last issue, we have to congratulate three winners of the Governor's Medal. In December, 1952, the medal went to App./W.O. A. M. Gillespie, who has since furthered his career by being accepted the following year for the O.C.S. at Portsea, from which he graduated in December, 1953. In June the winner was App./W.O. R. F. Bland, and in December, 1953, App./W.O. A. D. Hughes. Hughes is the son of Lt. A. Hughes, at present serving in Japan, and of Mrs. Hughes, of Perth. He was educated at North Kalgoorlie and Perth Boys' High School, which he left in 1950, after

gaining his Junior Certificate, to join us here. We wish all three every success in their future careers.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

Just as 1953 was made memorable by being Coronation Year, so 1954 will live in our minds and hearts as Royal Visit Year. As we go to press a contingent of three officers and fifty apprentices is at Canberra taking part in the ceremonies there and the rest of us are busy training to line the streets on the day Her Majesty arrives in Melbourne. With the rest of Australia we welcome the Queen we serve and her consort to our shores.



THE ARGUS, Saturday 24

A £4,000 SCHOLARSHIP

IS THE ESTIMATED EQUIVALENT OF THE ARMY'S TRADE TRAINING COURSE FOR BOYS 15 AND 16

ENTRANCE IS BY PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITHOUT COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

The Army Apprentices' School
Balcombe, Victoria

TRAINS TO FULL CIVILIAN AND ARMY TRADESMAN STATUS IN ELECTRICAL (INCLUDING RADAR AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS), METAL, MOTOR, BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.

To be eligible applicants must be over 15, but under 17, at date of entry on 16th January, 1956. They must be British subjects resident in Australia and preferably have passed the Intermediate or equivalent examination, but Junior Technical Certificate or education to sub-Intermediate or equivalent standard will be considered.

THE COURSE


The course, consisting of three years at the Army Apprentices' School followed by a year's practical experience in an Army Workshop, covers complete training in one of the above trades, with expert instruction and the latest equipment. Successful apprentices become fully accredited tradesmen, accepted by Trade Unions, Employers' Associations and Apprenticeship Authorities.

THE COURSE IS FREE

Accommodation, food, clothing, medical and dental attention is free. Furthermore, a regular cash allowance is paid during training, plus a small amount of deferred pay, which is paid in a lump sum at the end of the three years at the School.

LEAVE AND RECREATION

Leave is generous (6 weeks per year on full pay plus a small extra cash allowance). A library, film and organised sport provide adequately for leisure enjoyment.



An experiment in electronics with the Cathode Ray Oscilloscope.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The initial term of engagement is for nine years, including the four years of the course, with the option of re-engagement.

BAND BOYS

At the Army School of Music, also at Balcombe, Victoria, selected boys between 15 and 17 years of age are, by a two years' Course, trained to the high musical standards required of a Bandsman in the Regular Army. Musical knowledge is advantageous but not essential. Band Boys are initially enlisted for eight years, including the two years at the School.

For entry on 16th January, 1956, applications close 3rd October, 1955, at Headquarters, Southern Command, Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne. Intending applicants and interested parents are urged to call at or write immediately to this Headquarters for full details, or write to the Deputy Director of Recruiting, Box XYZ, Melbourne.

Issued by the Director of Recruiting. A/52-62-46



RAEME Corps History – South Vietnam – Final Part 6 – Frank O'Brien, 19th Intake Fitter & Turner

Extracted from RAQ Friday Files, 24 November 2023

"Part 6 is the final continuation of stories from the (RAEME) Corps History Book and our involvement in SVN. Copies of the Corps History Book 'With Skill and Fighting' are [available here](#).

Another who served outside the Corps was Frank O'Brien. As an Army Apprentice, Frank's initial exposure to the Vietnam War was as a member of the burial party for the funerals of Victorian-based soldiers who had been killed in action. This had an impact on the young Craftsman and he was keen to join RAEME ranks in Vietnam. His route toward that aim was somewhat circuitous, involving a 12-month course in Vietnamese at the RAAF School of Languages at Point Cook, and when he did finally deploy, it was not with RAEME.

"I achieved my goal of a posting to SVN in 1969, not as a RAEME fitter, and not in a RAEME unit. My job (as a CFN) was to be 1 Div Int Unit's "man in Ba Ria", providing interpreter/translator support to the Operations Intelligence 'higher-ups' at 1 ATF HQ, Nui Dat and act as interpreter for the Commander 1 ATF and the Ba Ria Province Chief. This was heady stuff for a 20-21 year old, just fresh out of the Point Cook classroom."

"Each day I had to visit local ARVN units spread throughout Phuoc Tuy Province and speak with local commanders to learn of the events of the previous 24 hours and then translate my notes ready for delivery as an Intelligence Summary at 1 ATF by 4PM. My work desk in Ba Ria was located inside the Province Intelligence Operations Coordination Centre (PIOCC). It was here that I worked side-by-side with three US Army officers as part of the Phuong Hoang (Phoenix) Program run by the CIA. I had no idea at that time that this American program aimed at neutralizing the Viet Cong Infrastructure would later (after 1975) become infamous as an example of covert US policy in Vietnam over-stepping the accepted norm for counter insurgency operations. I just did my job."



Pictured above: Frank O'Brien's job was not without its 'perks'. The CIA donated a Jeep for his daily use"

What is an apprentice?

From a Facebook post by Bernard Cosgriff, 27th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, who found this during a clean up – author unknown

"Somewhere between the innocence of babyhood and the dignity of old age we find a delightful creature known as an apprentice.

Apprentices come in assorted sizes, weights and colours, but all have the same creed; to enjoy every second of every minute of every hour of every day and to protest with noise (their only weapon) when they are placed on a charge.

Apprentices are found everywhere, on top of, underneath, inside of, climbing on, swinging from, running round, lying beside or jumping over - the bar. Officers love them - girls adore them - older brothers and sisters tolerate them - few ignore them - and heaven protects them.

An apprentice is truth with a corkscrew in his pocket; beauty with rings under his eyes; wisdom with a concoction of a beret on his head; and the hope of the future with a discharge or a pay rise in his pocket.

When you are busy an apprentice is an inconsiderate, bothersome intruding jangle of noise, when you want him to make a good impression his brain turns to jelly or else he becomes a savage sadistic jungle creature bent on destroying the world and himself with it.



An apprentice is a composite thing, he has the appetite of a horse, the thirst of a dry camel, the curiosity of a cat and the lungs of a DI, the imagination Charles Dickens, the shyness of a violet, the audacity of asking for an extention [sic] of leave, the enthusiasm of a fire cracker and when he tries to make something he has five fingers on each hand.

He likes - leave, girls, pictures, weekends, comics, gambling and more leave. He does NOT like - guards, working weekends, parades, barbers, panics, shoe polish or kit inspection.

An apprentice is a magical creature. You can lock him out of your section or classroom, but you can't lock him out of your heart, you can keep him out of your orderly room, but you can't keep him out of your mind. Might as well give up he is your captor, your jailer, your boss, your master, and [sic] unconcerned, untidy, pleasure hunting, woman chasing apprentice, but, when you arrive at work in the morning with only the shattered pieces of your hopes and dreams, he makes them like new with three magic words:-

G O O D M O R N I N G S I R."

Our Committee

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

Patron MAJGEN Andrew Freeman AM (Retd), 40th Intake Electrical Fitter

Office-bearers

President Keith Lowe, 22nd F&T
Vice-president Greg Haggett, 40th P&G
Secretary Simon Brooks, 40th MM
Treasurer & Richard Pike, 21st VM
Acting Merchandise Officer
Heritage Officer Rob Minato, 31st ET
Membership Sec Graeme Smail, 35th ET

Committee Members

Welfare Officer Barry Minster OAM, 20th RM
Public Officer Ray Wilson, 15th Plumber

Ordinary Committee Members

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

Appointees

Hon Trustee Jim Hislop OAM, 9th F&T
Auditor Gary Lancaster, 22nd F&T
Legal Adviser Rod Perkins, 24th F&T
Chaplain Rev Canon Alan Kelb OAM, 25th F&T

Regional Representatives

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

Contributions to The Apprentice About

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

Disclaimer

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