

THE APPRENTICE ABOUT

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

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From the President

By Keith Lowe, 22nd Fitter and Turner, President AAAA, president@austarmyapprentice.org, 20 April 2024

During the period between preparing my last report for our February Newsletter and as I write this report, we have sadly recorded another six Association members who have died plus another nine non-Association members. Of the 15, three were from my own intake – a sobering thought. I offer my personal condolences to the families and friends of all 15 Apprentices for your sad loss. All names are listed later in the Newsletter under the Vale Notices. Of the 9409 Apprentice enlistees, 1330 are known to have died.

Lest We Forget

Once again, this year we were invited by Balcombe Grammar School to attend their Anzac Service on 23 April. I thank Association members Basil King (10th AD), Neil Bennet (13th VM), and Michael Botten (33rd MM) for attending on our behalf. At the School's invitation, Neil will also be reciting the Ode.

In 2010 the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) was formed and, as our Association was already an active body with, at the time, considered like interests, we became a member organisation. I think it's fair to say since inception they have attempted to emulate some other ESOs with mixed success. That said, for the last few years they have been attempting to update their Constitution and policies etc with the latest drafts being circulated during February and March. We, that is our Trustee, Newsletter Editor with experience in such matters, and myself devoted time to provide detailed responses to both requests for comment. It had been our understanding a final draft was to be circulated for member organisation acceptance by early April. We are now advised this has been extended to the end of April with a relatively short time being offered for consideration by member organisations. Of particular concern to us is how they will fund the operation of ADSO into the future. No tangible information in this regard has been forthcoming. Your trio mentioned above will consider further information as it comes to hand and at the appropriate time make a recommendation to our members as to how we should proceed. Information about ADSO can be found at <https://www.adso.org.au/about/>.

Members, as always we welcome feedback concerning matters where you believe we can improve our service to our members, and how we may encourage those eligible to join to do so. Until next time all the very best to all.

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Apprentices in the news

3RD Federation Star presented to CAPT Noel TIPTON, 28th Intake Carpenter & Joiner

Article extract and photo courtesy of Sapper Summit, RAE Corps Magazine, RAE Association (Vic) Inc., No 109 December 2023

“On 13th October 2023 several members of the RAE Association (Vic) Inc., were honoured to be invited to attend Oakleigh Barracks to witness Noel Tipton be presented with his 3rd Federation Star by the Chief of Army (LTGEN Simon Stuart, AO, DSC). Accompanying LTGEN Stuart was the Regimental Sergeant Major Army Kim Felmingham, NSC, OAM.

Joining Noel to acknowledge his 50 years of service to Defence were his wife (Maria) and family along with a large contingent from the Regiment. Also in attendance was Commander 4th Brigade (BRIG Michelle Campbell) and WO1 Tony Lynch (RSM 4th Brigade).”



Chief of Army LTGEN Simon Stuart, AO, DSC with CAPT Tipton and his wife Maria.

We featured Noel in the [February 2023 edition of TAA](#), recognising his 50 years of service.

DC (Don) HUGHES, 29th Intake Carpenter & Joiner, President RAE Association (Vic) Inc., 2024 Warrandyte Festival Monarch

Article extract and photo courtesy [Warrandyte Diary, Edition 581, February 2024](#)

Don Hughes was one of three local volunteers who were crowned as the 2024 Monarchs for the Warrandyte Festival held in April.

“They each embody the Warrandyte spirit and are passionate about our community. Don Hughes’ contribution to Warrandyte includes volunteering with Scouts, the Men’s Shed, RSL, Lions Club, the Historical Society, and Neighbourhood House.



‘Since moving here in 1995, I’ve relished the opportunity to delve into a broad range of volunteer activities.’”

The annual Warrandyte Festival, which first occurred in 1977, *“promotes the local environment, organisations, history, arts and crafts, to promote and encourage local community spirit and participation.”*

We featured Don in “Where are they now”, in the [February 2015 edition of TAA](#) and Don wrote an article “Tale of two (and a half) brickies” for the [February 2023 edition](#).

WO1 Andrew BEAMAN OAM, 46th Intake Motor Mechanic – Army senior technical adviser

In last November’s edition of TAA (Volume 6 | Issue 1 | Nov 2023), we reported that the RAEME Corps’ first Tier C ASM and the first non-regimental Tier C Warrant Officer, WO1 Andrew Beaman, as of January 2024, would take on the role of ASM Land Worthiness within Land Capability Division.

According to [Defence News & Events, 14 February 2024](#) *“The role primarily mentors senior warrant officers, including RAEME, signals and construction engineer technical trades.”*

“‘With this position I want to embed the fact that technical trades are critical to the capability Army provides, and the advice we bring is valuable to senior leadership,’ WO1 Beaman said. ‘I had a well thought-out life plan: join the Army and become a plumber. Get out of the Army and do plumbing. Become rich, because plumbers were rich.’ His eventual trade was motor mechanic, which he found he had a knack for after starting.



Federation Star to WO1 Robert George 'Bob' BATTEN, 33rd Intake Fitter & Turner

Image and article courtesy of Defence via RAQ Friday Files 1 March 2024



Chief of Army LTGEN Simon Stuart AO DSC (right) awards WO1 Robert 'Bob' Batten with the Federation Star during a visit to the 7th Brigade at Gallipoli Barracks, Queensland.

MAJ Steve HOWELLS, 28th Intake Electronics Tradesman - 3rd Federation Star - 50 years' service

Image and article courtesy of RAQ Friday Files 22 March 2024



Above: MAJ Stephen Howells is presented with his 3rd Federation Star by Major General David Thomae AM, Commander of the 2nd Division. (Photo courtesy of WO1 Kevin Bishop)

This week, MAJ Stephen Howells received his 3rd Fed Star in acknowledgment of 50 years of dedicated service.

Steve has been a great contributor to our Corps, commencing his journey as a 28th Intake Apprentice Electronic Technician graduating in 1975. His service has included deployments to Afghanistan (ICAT) and IRAQ 2003. After achieving the rank of WO1, Steve was then commissioned and continues to serve today. He is kept pretty busy dedicating his duties as a SERCAT 5 in ACAU, focusing on NPMA work and also within the HOC Cell.

Editor's Note: Steve is Honorary Life Member No.8 and Chairman's Award recipient No.12 of the RAQ. He has supported the Association over many years in a number of appointments within the Association.

On behalf of our members, congratulations Steve, over half a century of service to the Corps is a remarkable achievement, and you continue to serve. Well done!"



UK Nuclear Test Medal



On 6 November 2023 the Governor-General approved the UK Nuclear Test Medal to be added to the Schedule of Approved Countries and Awards. Australians awarded the commemorative UK Nuclear Test Medal are now approved to wear it alongside their other medals. The medal honours the contribution of veterans and civilian staff from across the Commonwealth at British or American nuclear tests at the Montebello Islands, Christmas Island, Malden Island and Maralinga & Emu Field, South Australia between 1952 and 1967. We have reported on the nuclear tests in a number of issues of TAA, including [Volume 5, Issue 8, February 2023](#).

Roy Vincent, 12th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, one of many Apprentices who qualify for the medal, recently posted on Facebook that his medal had arrived. Note that it is one of the first such medals that have been struck with the image of King Charles III.

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.

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 one historic entry.

Intake	Reg No	Name	Trade	Passed away
16	18724	Barry Robert ROBERTS	Clerk	10 Nov 2023
22	1201080	Allen William TODD	Radio Mechanic	1 Feb 2024
24	219187	Russell Roger HOLLAND	Carpenter & Joiner	17 Jan 2024
20	242438	Albert Leslie (Les) DUPREE	Radio Mechanic	6 Feb 2024
17	18734	Elvin John (Hanna) ANDREWS	Radio Mechanic	21 Feb 2024
22	1201094	Roy BOWEN	Electrical Fitter	21 Feb 2024
8	242788	Frank WALKER	Fitter and Turner	24 Feb 2024
22	217279	Christopher (Pedro) PEDERSEN	Bricklayer	1 Mar 2024
25	220141	Kevin James FURNESS	Musician	10 Mar 2024
14	48591	Trevor Herbert PARROTT	Radio Mechanic	19 Mar 2024
20	58855	Rodney James GRAY	Vehicle Mechanic	24 Mar 2024
21	48704	John David Kelsey BYRNE	Electrical Fitter DNG	3 Apr 2024
29	57889	Miroslav BEJR	Vehicle Mechanic	9 Apr 2024
23	1201763	Rowan John STACK	Fitter & Turner	22 Apr 2024
20	243462	Robert John ROGAN	Vehicle Mechanic	24 Apr 2024



Vale – Russell Roger HOLLAND, 24th Intake Carpenter & Joiner, 13 January 1952 – 17 January 2024

By Nicholas Swadling, 24th Intake C&J, via Facebook – Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth, 5 February 2024

“Russell Holland, Russ, Ned, Dutchy, will be forever remembered in my thoughts as long as I live. We met as young apprentice trade recruits to the Army Apprentices School Balcombe in January 1969, we became friends, good friends, a friendship that endured.

I knew Russ to be a fine sportsman, lively, adventurous, kind, generous, and somewhat naughty in a devilish sort of way, but always a true and good mate to many, Russ was a quiet and generous philanthropist to the underprivileged.

We worked together at 11 Supply Battalion where Ned oversaw the very first Bunnings warehouse, everything was available and a few Appies purchased there. He ran a productive workshop and was recognised for the quality of his supervision of foreign orders.

Russell succeeded in his Army career and was honoured for his courage and resourcefulness during his service in the islands. In private enterprise he was notable as a successful and trusted builder of high-quality homes.

A few years ago, Ned became one of a number of ex Appies to start a veterans retreat at Charleville; to give back to our veterans and first responders’, Dutchy was financially supportive in substantial ways and threw his heart into making the retreat a reality.

Russell connected with people in an easy going open and friendly way, so much so, that people were drawn to him with admiration and trust.

I along with you all will never forget his sleepy and melting face, a good mate, I will rejoice in my memories of himself, he was indeed a bottler, a bobby dazzler, and quite a diamond in the rough!

Vale Russell Holland”

Back on Track Retreat (BonTR) 2020, Charleville has featured in TAA in February, August and November 2020, and May and August 2021.

Vale – CAPT Trevor Herbert PARROTT, 14th Intake Radio Mechanic, Vietnam Veteran, and subsequently served in the Army Reserve with 107 Fd Wksp, passed away 19 March 2024

From April (Anzac Day) 2024 Newsletter, RAEME SA

“Trevor loved the idea of army from a very early age and always wanted to join. While at Nailsworth Boys Technical School he joined the Cadets and was fully committed even at that time.

At the age of 15, at the completion of his schooling, he and two of his mates (probably at his instigation) all applied for and were accepted into the Army Apprentice Scheme at Balcombe (Victoria). They all signed on for 9 years with Trevor undertaking Radio Mechanic training.

While his two mates served overseas in Malaya, Trevor spent 12 months in Vietnam working in support of 1 RAR. Trevor and his mates (Roger Burzacott and Bevan Quinn) all took their discharge in 1968 and went on to work in a variety of areas putting the skills gained during their military careers to good effect.

On discharge, Trevor transferred to the Inactive Reserve and in 1981 enlisted in the Army Reserve where his civilian qualifications allowed him to join under the Special Services Officer (SSO) system as a Captain. He served in several units and roles during his time in RAEME and he retired in 1992.

One of his favourite pastimes was opal mining and he and Bevan spent a lot of time at their “shacks” at Mintabie and then Coober Pedy. Trevor was your original “Mr Fixit” and loved recycling old treasures.

Trevor was always proud of his time in Vietnam and marched in the Vietnam Group every year on Anzac Day. When the RAEME Vietnam Group was introduced, he assisted Frank Owen and after Frank’s passing, he took over as the Group Coordinator. He also joined the TPI volunteer group and worked as a Counsellor.

REST IN PEACE”



Smoke alarms for the hearing impaired

From Vetaffairs – Vol 40 No. 1, 5 April 2024

As Australia enters the bushfire season, it is a timely reminder that the prescription of smoke alarm packages for eligible hearing impaired Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) clients may be appropriate.

DVA’s Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) supplies and installs smoke alarm packages for hearing impaired veterans through contracted suppliers.

Hearing impaired smoke alarm packages include a photoelectric smoke alarm, vibration pad, and flashing light.

They are designed to assist clients with hearing loss live independently and safely at home.

Smoke alarm packages can be prescribed by one of the following health providers: Audiologist, Audiometrist, Occupational therapist, GP/LMO, or a hearing specialist.

To be eligible to receive a smoke alarm package a DVA client must have a diagnosis of profound hearing loss or severe hearing loss in their better functioning ear.

They must also hold either a Veteran Gold Card or a Veteran White Card with a related accepted condition.

To prescribe complete the [D0992 Order Form – RAP Mobility & Functional Support Products](#).

If the client is a Veteran Gold Card holder send the form to one of the suppliers listed on the form. For Veteran White Card holders send the completed form to RAPGeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au.

For more information on eligibility and how to prescribe a smoke alarm package Please see the RAP National Guidelines – [Assistive Listening Devices Guideline](#).

For more information on RAP visit the [RAP Providers](#) page.

Membership matters

BY Graeme Smail, 35th Intake ET – [Membership Secretary membership@austrarmyapprentice.org](mailto:MembershipSecretary@austrarmyapprentice.org)

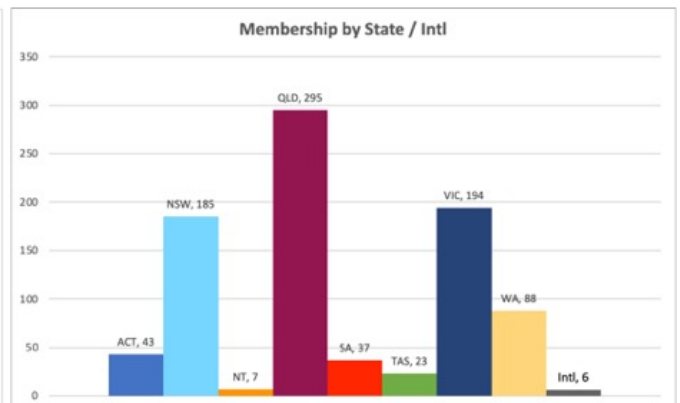
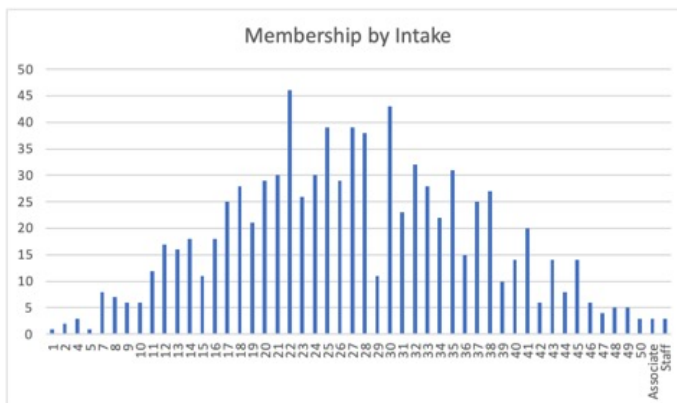
Membership status

The current state of the membership (as at 22 April 2024) is 878 financial members, consisting of (below):

These figures show a decrease in membership since the January Newsletter. Fifty-one members have allowed their membership to lapse since the last Newsletter. An additional reminder will be sent to those members before the end of April in an attempt to give them the opportunity to renew.

Membership Type	22/04/24	24/01/24
Life	3	3
Ordinary	580	646
Retired	288	263
Associate	7	7
TOTAL	878	919

Membership analysis





If you have not logged onto the Website lately it might be a good time to do so, and whilst you are there check your details, in particular your residential and mailing addresses. When checking your mailing address please don't use 'As Above' as Australia Post have difficulties delivering to that address! Either enter your mailing address or simply leave it blank.

If you need any assistance with your membership, then please give the Membership Secretary a call on 0438 212 964 or email at membership@austarmyapprentice.org.

Connect with AAAA on LinkedIn

Not only is LinkedIn a very popular and widely used platform for professional networking, it is also a powerful tool for social networking. To date the AAAA has used the Association Website, Facebook, the Newsletter and direct emailing to contact and remain in contact with members and potential members.

At the Committee meeting in November 2023, which was to review last October's reunion, the Secretary, Simon Brooks suggested that the Association set up a LinkedIn page. This was prompted by the Vice-President reporting at the 75th Reunion on the need to attract younger Apprentices to the Association. Many younger Apprentices are perhaps still focused on raising families and paying mortgages, and on running their own businesses or on their professions, and networking via LinkedIn is common. Simon was tasked with drafting a discussion paper and proposal on the use of LinkedIn for the February Committee meeting.

At the February Committee meeting, it was agreed that the AAAA establish an official presence on LinkedIn by creating a Company Page and that the Secretary will be the primary LinkedIn admin assisted by a Committee member.

Association members who are LinkedIn users are encouraged to follow the new AAAA LinkedIn company page. This is another way members can stay up to date with Association news.

Since establishing the page in March this year, we have already gained 134 followers (as of 18 April 2024).

Please tag us on this platform if you would us to share relevant posts with our page followers, e.g. news about intake reunions or commemorative activities.

Given LinkedIn is a business networking platform, it would also be appropriate for Association members to send us any stories they would like us to share with others about their professional achievements.

Please use the LinkedIn message function to send through story ideas. Where possible, we will look to repurpose these stories in our Newsletter.

Visit our page here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-army-apprentices-association>.

Events reports

ACT Region Quarterly Lunch, Ainslie FC, Wednesday, 6 March 2024

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

A very small group of only five included one partner, with Intakes 2 (C&J), 21, 22, and 26 (all Radio Mechs) represented. Those absent included at least eight travelling, at least eight due to medical reasons, and about four who it appears just forgot! Our best wishes to those recovering from recent surgery and other medical issues. We hope to see a bigger rollup at the next lunch to be held on Wednesday 5 June.

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

* **Celebrating 76 years of Army Apprentices**, Bulimba Bowls Club, Sat 1 June 2024, 1100 – 1600, Dress: Casual.

This is the 25th year of the reunion and still going! There will be a **FREE** “Sausage Sizzle” at lunch, but feel free to bring your own, if you wish. There is a large outdoor barbecue available for use. Drinks will be available at the bar. This year will be ‘low key’, just the **FREE** Sausage Sizzle, no raffle, no registration, a bar and good company.

Open to Ex-Apprentices, their families, ex-members of staff and any other personnel who were associated with Apprentices and wish to renew old friendships. If you know of any Ex-Apprentices who may not be aware of the reunion taking place, please pass this information on. Also, if you have access to any means of advertising the reunion, please feel free to do just that. *RSVP to Brian Daley, 14th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, bjdaley14@gmail.com.*

* **All Intakes Reunion**, Largs Bay RSL, 3 August 2024, 1200 hrs to 1600 hrs, partners welcome, let *Michael Thompson, 26th Intake Vehicle Mechanic* know if you intend to be there via Facebook, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australian Youth.

* **AAAA AGM and informal dinner**, Maroochydore RSL, Saturday 26 October 2024, details TBA.

* **24th Intake 55th Reunion**, Maroochydore RSL, 1-2 November 2024, *contact Phil Gibbs, 24th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, perqware4@bigpond.com.*

* **C Coy juniors of 1967 (RMs and EFs/EMs) get together**, Gold Coast, 1-8 November 2024, *contact Patrick Campbell, 22nd Intake Radio Mechanic, patoz@telstra.com.*

* **30th Intake 50th Reunion**, February 2025, *contact Don Hewett, 30th Intake Electrical Mechanic, dhewett5865@gmail.com or Ian CLEGG, 30th Intake Vehicle Mechanic, iccleqq@bigpond.net.au.*

* **35th Intake 45th Reunion**, April 2025, *contact Dave Clements, 35th Intake Motor Mechanic, clemacdc1@gmail.com.*

Other associations, etc

* **Scootaville 2024** – “If you’re feeling like some adventure this year, consider switching gears and nominating to ride in this year’s Scootaville – either in Queensland or New South Wales or both!” Support the RAAF Association and Legacy by visiting <https://raafa.org.au/join-the-adventure-scootaville-2024-needs-you/>

* **Keswick Bks – Past & Present**, Army Museum of SA Annual History Lunch, Wed 22 May 2024, 1200-1400, speakers to talk about their experiences and research into the history of Keswick Barracks, seating limited to 100 people, book via <http://e.mybookingmanager.com/E11562613180558> or, for the RAEME table, contact Greg Rosser at gregrosser@adam.com.au

* **Annual OCS Portsea Alumni Lunch for SE Qld**, Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Brisbane, Tue 16 July 2024. Staff and other friends of Portsea are most welcome to attend. [More information here.](#)

* **RAE Association Victoria Inc.**, [RAE Future Events](#).

* **101 Fd Wksp Reunion ‘88-’94**, Ingleburn RSL, The Bardia Room, Sat 17 August 2024, from 1700hrs, Dress code cocktail/smart casual, \$60 per person, *RSVP to karencairns@bigpond.com.*

* **HQ 1st Aust Task Force and D&E PI**, Torrens Trg Depot, Adelaide, 21-25 November 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 October 2021).



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- * **RAEME ACT**, *contact* <https://act.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>
 - * **RAEME QLD**, *contact* <http://qld.raeme.org.au/index.php/notices/events>
 - * **RAEME SA**, *contact* <https://sa.raeme.org.au/>.
 - * **Central Vic Veterans Group**, monthly get-together, Bendigo RSL Club Terrace, 1st Thursday of the month, 1830 hrs, *contact Jonathan Crust, 48th Intake C&J via Facebook*, Army Apprentices are the cream of Australia's Youth.
 - * **RASigs Certa Cito 100th Anniversary Warning Order**
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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 November 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."

From Certa Cito Newsletter March/April 2024

Other events throughout 2025 are being planned, and include, for Victoria (note in draft planning at this stage):

- * 1 February – 138 Sig Sqn 30th Birthday
- * 14 February – Launch of Certa Cito 100, Shrine, RA Sigs units combined, date locked in
- * 25 April - RA Sigs Units & Associations lead Anzac Day march, and recognition at Anzac Day AFL match, MCG
- * Dates TBC – Freedom of Entry parade, City of Banyule, and RA Sigs Units combined, RSL activity, Museum modernisation event
- * 30 June – 108 Sig Sqn 50th Birthday
- * 11 November – DFSS rehearsal for VIP visit and Open Day for RA Sigs Community
- * 12 November – VIP visit, welcome guard, training demonstrations, 138 & 108 Sig Sqn demonstrations, lunch, Corps Museum visit, Corps dinner @ Government House (TBC)
- * 2 December – DFSS 23rd birthday.

SPAASSM Collection

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

One response for the February competition from Kevin Graham, 7th Intake Plumber & Gasfitter, included the following story.



“On Saturday 12th September 1953, a 14-year-old Melbourne girl Shirley Collins was brutally murdered in ti tree scrub near Mount Martha beach in Victoria. Her body lay there for a couple of days and became the subject of an intense police investigation.

Because of its proximity to the scene of the murder, every serviceman at Balcombe Camp was considered to be a possible suspect. This included all Army Apprentices who had to establish what they were doing on the evening of Saturday 12th September. A very large number of them were probably absent (with or without a leave pass) and to establish an alibi, most of them claimed to have been at the film showing that night at the Area Theatre. The film was called “Come Back, Little Sheba”, starring Burt Lancaster and Shirley Booth. Nothing of great importance.

Then a more astute policeman investigated the seating capacity of the Theatre, and it was realised that many of those guys had to be sitting on the lap of someone else!! To see the picture!!

Then it was apparent that the Apprentices were being questioned in the presence of the company commanders and other officers or other persons of authority and were not likely to confess that they were somewhere else that night drinking in Mornington or Dromana or any of the other likely watering places for Apprentices, and so the questioning began all over again. This time without the presence of the officers.

By now, despite the efforts of some people who kept telling the police that it must have been one of the Army people who “did it”, the trail ran cold. To this day Shirley Collins’ murderer has not been found.

An unfortunate bit of excitement in the otherwise dull lives of Army Apprentices!!!”

Note, according to the Herald Sun on 2 November 2019, “It’s the chilling unsolved murder which keeps veteran homicide cop Ron Iddles awake at night” [Ed].

February 2024 competition



Q: What was the name of this building? **A:** Anzac Hall, Balcombe. There were over a dozen replies, which included Anzac Hall, ANZAC Hall, Anzac House, Anzac Theatre, and Area Theatre.

The first correct answer was from Andrew (Beetle) Bailey, 28th Electrical Mechanic.

Congratulations Beetle, your SPAASSM Collection USB has been mailed to you. Enjoy!

Left – SPAASSM Ph I Image 00465



Beetle recalled some of his memories of Anzac Hall: watching the movie Zulu, and resting and sleeping after the Doxa marathon at North Melbourne/Flemington.

Obviously, this question was most easily answered by Balcombe Apprentices, which explains why all those who responded were from Intakes lower than 38.

This edition’s competition (next page) is for those of you from Bonegilla – but it isn’t as easy!

Left – photo source unknown



The February competition also raised the question of whether it's "Anzac" or "ANZAC". The best reference for this debate is the [DVA's Use of the word 'Anzac' Guidelines](#), last updated in October 2020.

The Guidelines state, "There is no rule or law that indicates how the word 'Anzac' should be capitalised. For example, DVA only uses 'ANZAC' when referencing the Corps itself and uses 'Anzac' in all other circumstances; the Australian War Memorial (AWM) generally uses 'ANZAC', given its focus on historical records and memorabilia."

[Note that the AWM uses "Anzac Hall" in most of its current writings, e.g. when describing the AWM's redevelopment project, and on Facebook, Flickr and Instagram. Ed]

May 2024 competition



Q: In this image, what facility at Latchford Barracks was MAJGEN JC Hartley AO (then Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation) about to open on 9 March 1993 by removing the AAS badge?

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

COL Hartley had been COMD Albury Wodonga Military Area and COMDT AAS from January 1985 to June 1987. Hidden is the then COMDT AAS COL Wayne Thomas KENDALL (16th Intake Clerk). Wayne graduated from AAS in 1962 and later went on to attend OCS Portsea, graduating in June 1967. He was allocated to RAA and served in a wide range of regimental and staff appointments during his military service, including Vietnam with the 12th and 1st Field Regiments between 7 May 1968 and 11 May 1969.

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
70th REUNION ITEMS	Stubby holder	\$5.00	\$5.00
	Photo card	\$16.50	\$3.50
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AAAA BADGED ITEMS	Baseball cap	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Car sticker	\$5.00	\$1.50
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	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





MERCHANDISE ITEMS		PRICES	POSTAGE
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 <u>Treasurer</u></i>)	\$10.00	\$14.00

History

Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria – Annual Awards to Outstanding Apprentices

From Ken Osborne, 9th Intake Radio Mechanic, via Facebook

“I have been going through photos I have taken during my lifetime and a couple that popped up were one of me when I was awarded the Apprenticeship Commission medal as outstanding apprentice in 1957. When I reflected on the photos, I wondered who else was awarded one of these. I think Bill Rollason got one in 1956, but who else has been given one? or did they stop handing them out at some stage and when? Love to know.”

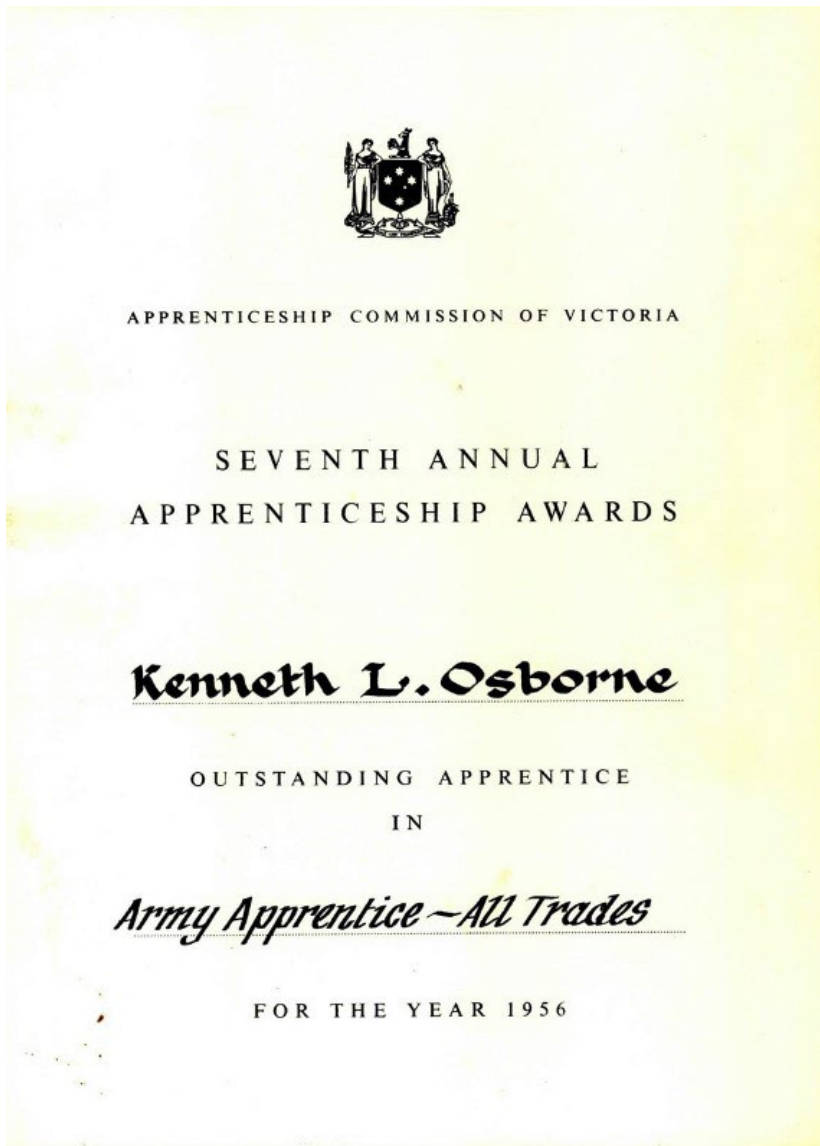
Ken’s award was presented by His Excellency The Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, LTGEN Sir Edmund Herring KCMG KBE KStJ DSO MC ED MA DCL QC at the 7th Annual Presentation of Apprenticeship Awards on 16 May 1957, at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Awards presented on the evening were: Silver Medallion for Apprentice of the Year; Bronze Medallions for the winners in each trade; Special Awards to Outstanding Apprentices in all trades from the AAS (Ken Osborne), RAAF Apprentices School and Trans Australia Airlines; and Bronze Medallions and Honourable Mentions in the Awards for Craftsmanship – to those apprentices who submitted an example of Craftsmanship made by them during their training (for example: Book Binding, Boot Making, Bricklaying, Cabinet Making, Electrical Fitting, Patternmaking, Plumbing, etc).

Music for the evening was reportedly provided by 10 Apprentices from the Band of the Army Apprentices School, Army School of Music, Balcombe. The names listed, however, are not recorded as Apprentices in either the AAAA nominal roll or the lists of Band Corps “All Trainees Record”. Perhaps someone can enlighten us as to who these Musicians were.

The AAAA Website “[All About](#)” page includes an “[Apprentice Proficiency Awards](#)” document (“*Apprenticeship Commission of Victoria, Department of Labour and Industry, Annual Awards to Outstanding Apprentices*”), which includes information on these awards. Our current President, Keith Lowe, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner, won the same award for 1969.





Royal Signals History

From RA Sigs Association Victoria Member Mr. Lionel Boxer via Certa Cito Newsletter March/April 2024

In 1870, 'C' Telegraph Troop, Royal Engineers, was founded under Captain Montague Lambert. The Troop was the first formal professional body of signallers in the British Army and its duty was to provide communication for a field army by means of visual signalling, mounted orderlies and telegraph.

By 1871, 'C' Troop had expanded in size from two (2) officers and 133 other ranks to five (5) officers and 245 other ranks. In 1879, 'C' Troop first saw action during the Anglo-Zulu War. On 1st May 1884, 'C' Troop was amalgamated with the 22nd and 34th Companies, Royal Engineers, to form the Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers; 'C' Troop formed the 1st Division (Field Force, based at Aldershot) while the two Royal Engineer Companies formed the 2nd Division (Postal and Telegraph, based in London).

Signalling was the responsibility of the Telegraph Battalion until 1908, when the Royal Engineer Signal Service was formed. As such, it provided communications during the First World War. It was about this time that motorcycle despatch riders and wireless sets were introduced into service.

[The Corps of Signals was formed on 28 June 1920, with the title Royal Corps of Signals conferred by King George V on 5 August 1920. Ed]



Korean Ashes – Peter Geoffrey JACKSON, 1st Intake Motor Mechanic (RIP)

Image and article courtesy of AWM via RAQ Friday Files 12 April 2024



“Getting padded up, ready for a practice knock at 'Lords', where the big match will be played, is Australian team member 22300 SGT Peter Geoffrey Jackson, of Gosford, NSW. 1st Intake Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic.

The 'Test' match for the 'Korean Ashes', an annual game staged between the British and Australian forces serving in Korea, took place over the weekend of 15 - 16 October 1955.

England and Australia have each had a victory in the two 'Tests' played since the end of the Korean War, so both sides are determined to win this one.

SGT Jackson, an all-rounder who represented Southern Command in Australia last year, is the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) Sergeant of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR). 'Lords' is a sun baked oval of mud and scraggy grass only a mile back from the truce line. It is surrounded on two sides by barbed wire and minefields.”

Army and Navy adopt new trades training system – National

Image and article courtesy of Defence, via RAQ Friday Files 9 February 2024



Pictured above: Map of Wodonga Institute of TAFE and National Technical Education Network partners

“In a move to bolster the technical prowess of its personnel, Navy and Army have introduced a state-of-the-art joint technical trades training system (JTTS).



Geared towards revolutionising trades-related capability, the system has the potential to redefine how technical trades are learned and applied in the field.

Navy and Army signed a contract for the system with Wodonga Institute of TAFE, supported by their National Technical Education Network partners, last year, and Army’s training officially began on January 1.

Commanding Officer Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Lieutenant Colonel Tim Soper said the project would deliver industry-recognised qualifications to thousands of soldiers and sailors, as well as expand training opportunities in home regions and locations, enabling Defence’s training system to meet rapidly changing capability requirements.

“The JTTS contract represents a significant leap forward in our efforts to cultivate a highly skilled and adaptable force,” Lieutenant Colonel Soper said.

“By harnessing an adaptable and modern training architecture, we are empowering our service members to excel in their respective fields and meet the evolving challenges of modern warfare.”

Chief JTTS Officer Adam Jacoby affirmed the commitment to providing Defence with industry-recognised, best-practice training. “Bringing together some of the largest and most respected training institutions in the country in a collaborative and innovative national delivery model will reshape the Defence training ecosystem and be more responsive to the ADF’s short- and longer-term strategic objectives,” Mr Jacoby said.

JTTS will deliver capability through nationally accredited and non-accredited technical training pathways to achieve Certificate II, III, IV and advanced trade qualifications in construction, electrical, electronics, engineering, mechanical and, from January 2025, aviation maintenance management (mechanical/avionics).

ADF students who participated in developing the JTTS charter said it was a valuable opportunity to help ensure training was student-focused.”

Our Committee

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

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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



Need something to do in your retirement?

From Tim Wilde, 40th Intake Plumber & Gasfitter via Facebook on 3 April 2024

There are plenty of opportunities to Volunteer throughout Australia.

These include: many (most?) museums, the Australian War Memorial, RSLs, emergency services organisations, aged care, gardens, environmental, education, cleaning, National Trust, Kokoda Challenge, Red Shield Appeal, history research, Website administration, tour guide, toy repairs, data analysis, events coordination, etc.

Check out these Websites:

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/looking-to-volunteer/>

and

<http://www.qvolunteer.com.au/>



[And it would be interesting to hear from Apprentices who do volunteer work, especially for organisations that are not well known. We can publish a list in the August edition of TAA (no names) of the sorts of activities people get involved in, so please let me know at news@austarmyapprentice.org.]

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.

Volunteer Recruitment Drive



The Maritime Museum Maintenance Team seeks Volunteers with the following skills:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Painting
- Gardening/Ground Maintenance
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Work
- General Handy-Person

Maintenance Team works Tuesdays and Thursdays

Grounds Team works Wednesdays and Fridays

Pearling Lugger Restoration (Penguin) Team works Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Times are from 8am to 3pm with morning tea and lunch breaks

Days and Times are flexible.

Volunteers with Trade Certificates, Forklift & Scissor Lift Licenses are needed but not essential. We accommodate a wide range of skill levels.

For an introductory visit please contact:

John Imrie – john.imrie@maritimemuseum.com.au

Graham Tappenden – graham.tappenden@maritimemuseum.com.au

Russell Cobine – russell.cobine@maritimemuseum.com.au (Penguin)

We look forward to welcoming you onboard.