



THE ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BANNER



History and customs of the Banner

¹From the days of early man, some sort of insignia has been employed to distinguish families, tribes and nations. The first military organisation to adopt a unit device was the Roman Army, the units of which carried a bronze or silver eagle mounted on a staff. The first traces of the Banner were found at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 which were in the form of the Bayeux tapestry.

Before being presented, the Banner is dedicated at a religious ceremony on parade when God's blessing is asked. Pope Alexander II blessed a banner which William the Conqueror carried at Hastings. At the Battle of the Standard in 1138, Yeoman (*sic*) of Yorkshire, fighting the Scots, took with them the consecrated Banners of St. Peter of York, St. John of Beverley and St. Wilfred of Ripon. They fought so fiercely to save these Banners that they defeated heavy odds.

The Banner embodies the history, spirit and tradition of the unit to which it is presented. The Banner is highly valued, carefully guarded and treated with great respect.

²Three types of Banners in the Australian Army are: the Sovereign's Banner which may be presented to any corps or unit including those with Colours; Banners presented by other members of the Royal Family (these may be presented to any corps which does not have an entitlement to Standards, Guidons or Colours); and the Governor-General's Banner for training establishments that do not possess a Colour. Banners are accorded the same respect and compliments as the Queen's Colours.

³Current Australian Army custom is that when Guidons or Colours are to be retired, they are laid up in a place approved by the Chief of Army, such as: a principal municipal building; a State or Federal government building; a military church or chapel or suitable regional cathedral, church or chapel; a corps or local civilian museum; a corps school; or a war memorial. Once laid up, Colours are left as they are and will, in time, disintegrate (dust to dust); they should not be re-conditioned or refurbished.

When Colours are laid up, they are hung parallel to the floor and not at an angle. It is acceptable for them to be stored in a glass display case to preserve their life so they can be viewed by the public domain. The only time they may be removed from their resting place is in the case of a unit being brought back onto the Order of Battle and the Colours are still serviceable or the building providing the resting place is to be disposed of or demolished. In such cases the Chief of Army may approve that the Banner be relocated to another suitable resting place.

The Army Apprentices School Governor-General's Banner

The Governor-General's Banner was approved by The Right Honourable Richard Casey, Baron Casey KG GCMG CH DSO MC KStJ PC during his term as Governor-General between 22 September 1965 and 30 April 1969. The Banner was presented to the Army Apprentices School by G-G Casey's successor His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Paul Hasluck KG GCMG GCVO PC on 30 August 1969 during the School's 21st Birthday celebrations. The Banner pays compliments to Her Majesty and the Governor-General only.

⁴The parade originally planned for Citation Oval had, at short notice due to heavy rain during the days prior, to be relocated to the School parade ground inside the Marine Memorial Gates.



Blessing of the Banner by the Chaplains General with Southern Command Band in the background.



*Banner Ensign, Apprentice SSGT Ian Moffatt, 22nd Intake Fitter & Turner, receiving the Banner.
MAJ Alec Weaver, OC Regimental Training Wing (back to camera),
Governor-General His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Paul Hasluck KG GCMG GCVO PC,
and MAJGEN CE Long CCE, GOC Southern Command*

⁵Copies of the original approved banner proofs with Governor-General Casey's signature are included below.



The obverse of the Banner depicts the Standard of the Governor-General of Australia, a symbol of loyalty to the throne, with the year of presentation.



The reverse depicts the badge of the Army Apprentices School.

The parade comprised the Apprentice Battalion of four companies, each under the command of their Apprentice (WO2) Sergeant Major (ASM) who were: A Company Apprentice WO2 WW Rudland (22nd Intake Vehicle Mechanic), B Company Apprentice WO2 GD Lancaster (22nd Intake Fitter & Turner), C Company Apprentice WO2 MM Campbell (22nd Intake Electrical Fitter), and J Company Apprentice WO2 BJ Cox (22nd Intake Carpenter & Joiner).

Apprentice WO1 KS Lowe (22nd Intake Fitter & Turner), as Battalion Sergeant Major (BSM) was Parade Commander.

The Banner Party for the acceptance of the Banner from His Excellency was:

Banner Party Commander – WO1 NE Heritage, RSM	Royal Australian Regiment
Banner Ensign – Apprentice SSGT ID Moffat	22 nd Intake Fitter & Turner
Banner Escort – Apprentice SSGT RN Gillett	22 nd Intake Electrical Fitter
Banner Escort – Apprentice SSGT RB Snape	22 nd Intake Carpenter & Joiner.

Following His Excellency's presentation of the Banner to the Banner Party Ensign, His Excellency addressed the Parade.

"Commanding Officer, Staff and Apprentices of the Army Apprentices School.

The act of presentation of the Governor-General's Banner has just been completed. We all know the ancient origins and purpose of a banner; in other days, standards were carried alongside leaders in battle to mark their place and progress, and to serve to rally followers.

On one side, your banner shows the standard of the Governor-General of Australia; His symbol is to display your loyalty to the Throne of England. On the other side is the badge of the Army Apprentices School, and it reminds you of your loyalty to one another and to the School. It is 21 years since the School was established and it is appropriate to mark the occasion with the presentation of the banner, which recognises the importance of the school in the training of the Soldier-Tradesman for service.

In accepting this banner you have recognised these principles of loyalty and service. You have made a pledge and I know that you will keep it.

In your future service in the Army, the success of military operations may often depend on your integrity and skill in the preparation of equipment required for operations. Your work must be such that you can hand any piece of military equipment to its user with confidence and pride in workmanship. Perhaps even more critical is the fact the user will be able to have total confidence in the equipment you give to him. Your Queen and your country depend on you and your mates.

You are required to hand this banner on to succeeding young men, encouraging them to maintain the principles of loyalty and service that you acknowledge by receiving this banner. In your bearing today there is clear proof of your readiness to accept and uphold this responsibility."

(Please note the above address was made on 30 August 1969 and it would be another 15 years until female Apprentices were included in the ranks!)

The Banner in-service

During the next 27 years, the Banner was included in all official parades involving Army Apprentices within the School and externally with the first official duty being the Vice Regal guard, accompanied by the Southern Command Band. The Banner was carried at the opening of the Royal Melbourne Show by His Excellency MAJGEN Sir Rohan Delacombe KCMG KCVO KBE CB DSO KStJ, Governor of Victoria on 19 September 1969.



This was closely followed by the graduation of the 22nd Intake of Apprentices on 6 December 1969, with the photograph below showing the inaugural Banner Party.



*Escort Apprentice SSGT RB Snape, Banner Ensign Apprentice SSGT ID Moffat,
and Escort Apprentice SSGT RN Gillett.*

Subsequent official duties included all Army Apprentice Graduation Parades, external guards for official occasions including Australia Day and Anzac Day, and when exercising the Freedom of the Town of Mornington.

Then, following the School's relocation to Bonegilla, the Banner was paraded when exercising the Freedom of the City of Albury, of the Municipality of Deniliquin (Edward River Council), and of the Town of Corowa, as well as numerous other occasions.

The final Apprentices graduation, with the Banner, was with the 49th Intake on 8 April 1995.

Laying up of the Banner

On 1 January 1991, the Army Apprentices School was renamed the Army College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE).

On 8 April 1995, with the cessation of the Army Apprentice Scheme, once called the School – be it Army Apprentices School or Army College of TAFE, significant changes were made to modernise technical trade training within Army. This included the merging of the Army Apprentice Scheme with the Adult Trade Training Scheme, resulting in the adoption of a single model for technical training known as the Army Technical and Trade Scheme (ATTS). Subsequently, on 1 December 1995, the Army College of TAFE was amalgamated with the other logistic schools into a formation, to be known as the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC).

As a consequence of these changes, the Banner was no longer representative of an active organisation. It was therefore determined that the Banner would be withdrawn from service and formally laid up.

A parade was held at Latchford Barracks on 29 November 1996 to mark both the first anniversary of the formation of ALTC and the official laying up of the Banner.

The parade that day included numerous members of the 49th and 50th Intakes of Apprentices. Fittingly, the Banner Escorts for its final parade were both graduates from the Army Apprentices School, representing the enduring spirit, camaraderie and professionalism instilled in all who proudly called themselves 'Army Apprentices'.



*Banner Party ready to march on.
(L to R) Escort SSGT P Myhill 32nd Intake, Banner Ensign LT MJ Vroomans,
and Escort SGT DFR Gammon 42nd Intake.*



The Banner's Final Parade

Following the parade the Banner was moved to the Chapel of Saint Peter, Bonegilla, Victoria for the formal laying up service where it remains.



The Banner at rest in the Chapel of Saint Peter, Bonegilla, Victoria.

¹ From the Booklet for the Army Logistic Training Centre First Birthday Parade and Laying Up of the Governor-General's Banner 29 November 1996

² Retrieved from <https://www.24rarassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/customsandtraditions.pdf>

³ Australian Army Ceremonial and Protocol Manual Chapter 10

⁴ Some photographs and details are from personal files of participants from the award parade, and of the AAAA Office-bearers 2022

⁵ From the records of the Army Heritage Repository.