



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
ACT Incorporation No A04404  
GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601 [www.austarmyapprentice.org](http://www.austarmyapprentice.org)  
Patron: Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM, Chief of Army

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – MAY 2009**

Well I guess it's about that time to brief you all on what is happening in the Association, what has happened since my last Update and what is planned for the future.

### **Membership Renewals and Membership Details**

Considerable effort has been made these last two months in sending out renewal notices. As a result of wrong email addresses, lack of email addresses and those without email addresses over 200 had to be sent by snail mail. It is hoped that the details provided with renewal will help update and correct our Membership List. It would be appreciated if members notify the Membership Secretary of any changes in personal details.

Over 250 members have now renewed but we still need those members who have not renewed to do so as soon as possible. Provided we can keep our membership numbers up we can survive without increasing dues, so please renew on time; memberships are all due on 1 March, each year, with those joining after 1 November being granted a 4 months gratis membership.

Wally Rotow, assisted by Herb Ellerbock, is endeavouring to update/correct the Graduation List. Quite a large number of errors have been found. They are also trying to include those who entered Apprentices School but did not graduate. Even with free access to CARO records this is proving to be a very difficult project.

Wally is now following up leads that we were able to pass to him on the location of additional records at Bandianna and in archives. It is hoped that this will enable more complete and accurate Army Apprentice records.

**We have a new Membership Secretary, Craig Malcolm** ([cmalcolm@aigroup.asn.au](mailto:cmalcolm@aigroup.asn.au)) who is resident in Melbourne and is working with Herb Ellerbock on an Association Management System that will incorporate a membership system. Anyone requiring membership application form or a renewal form should contact Craig or download the membership application form from the web site.

Thank you Craig for accepting this important position.

### **New Secretary**

Following the resignation of Steve Hladio, Barry Teal ([teal586@westnet.com.au](mailto:teal586@westnet.com.au)) has taken on the role of Secretary, for which I thank him sincerely. Barry lives in Swan Hill.

### **New Heritage Officer**

Geoff Martin ([gmar2322@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gmar2322@bigpond.net.au)) has taken over as Heritage Officer from Chris Moon, and again my sincere thanks. Geoff already has numerous projects in front of him; coordinating the gathering of suitable items for the new display cabinet that the Army Museum has purchased to expand the Army Apprentices displays, as Secretary of the Army Apprentices Memorial Sub-Committee, ascertaining responsibility for maintenance of the Memorial Avenue of intake trees at Bonagilla and organising the replacement of drought affected intake trees and chasing up what has happened to the memorial cairn to the Crab Day fatalities. Thanks Geoff, you have a busy time in front of you.

### **Association Chaplains**

The Reverends Bryan Nichols JP and Craig Potter have been invited to accept the appointments of Association Chaplains. Thank you both for accepting. Both are key members of the Memorial Sub-Committee.

### **Apprentice Flag in Perth ANZAC Day March.**

Although I personally discourage Apprentices marching as a separate contingent on ANZAC Day as there is already too much dispersion of unit/corps identity, I was pleased to approve a request from Perth that the Apprentice Flag be carried as part of the Sapper contingent on the Perth March. This was very well received by all marchers and recognised by a number of the crowd as it went by. The inclusion of our flag into the contingents of those corps to which we were posted is a very positive way of recognising Army Apprentices and I would encourage other states to consider the possibility of following the Perth Sappers initiative.

### **Army Apprentice Memorial**

A Sub-Committee has been formed to manage the Army Apprentice Memorial at Bandiana. The composition of this Sub-Committee can be found on the web site.

As a result of generous donations made by members when renewing membership \$2000 was raised. At the last Committee Meeting it was agreed to transfer \$4000 to the Memorial Sub-account, making a total of \$6000 that will allow completion of the rose garden, fittings for the flag pole, plaques recognising foundation donors and sponsors and the manufacture and installation of "Army Apprentices School" in the original script from Balcombe for the wall. This only leaves the memorial wall to inter ashes to be completed and all donations/sponsorship for this stage will be gratefully received.

Greg Mulcahy is working on how best to handle requests for additional engraved pavers and will publish the results when completed. The delay is regretted but it has been difficult to work out how best to contain costs for individual pavers to be inserted into the existing pavement.

The Sub-Committee will now be able to design and promulgate an Application Form for memorial plaques for Apprentices who are deceased to be placed on the gate walls. As soon as the memorial wall is completed an Application Form for the Interring of Apprentice ashes will be promulgated. Expressions of interest are invited from Apprentices or NOKs who wish to have a memorial plaque on the walls or have ashes interred. (The interment will ensure that an Apprentice is never forgotten or that his resting place is neglected. It will also be an economical resting place compared to commercial options!!) Not a very pleasant subject to discuss but I hope you all see this as another service we are trying to provide for Apprentices. An appropriate service will be developed by our Chaplains for interment services.

### **Association Budget**

At the next Committee meeting in July, the Committee will draw up a draft budget for the following year. We have a number of unavoidable expenses such as insurance, association registration fees, web site fees, postage and administration, travel costs, SPAASSM continuing costs and Memorial upkeep. This will need to be approved at the AGM in August.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Association AGM will be held in Canberra on Saturday 22 August. The Notice of the AGM and the agenda will be promulgated later. All financial members are invited to attend and it will include a BBQ lunch.

Financial members should pass any item they wish discussed at the AGM or the Committee Meeting immediately following to the Secretary. A number of positions will also fall vacant and nominations will be sought for these. When notified, please consider if you can accept any of the vacant positions. The PR Officer to produce The Apprentice About to replace my Updates would be particularly appreciated right now.

Also, we need to ratify changes to the constitution affecting the duties of Committee Members and the appointments of members to fill casual and new duties on the committee.

### **Life membership and recognition for honours and awards.**

Please forward any nominations you wish for Association Life Membership or that you wish the Association to make for Commonwealth honours and awards to the Secretary ASAP.

### **Regional Representatives**

I will shortly be contacting all Regional Representatives to give them a contact list for all members in their region. I will be asking them to chase up new membership and to organise regional apprentice lunches.

## **Major Association Event in 2009**

Planning is now underway for our next National Association event to be held in Canberra in October 2011.

The first day will be set aside for intake reunions with assistance being given in booking BBQ sites and providing information on suitable venues for intake dinners.

Following days will see a wreath laying service at the AWM and guided tours, a reunion dinner, a "military" day, a sports day and a farewell BBQ. Time will be allowed in the program for local sightseeing and it is intended to involve families in the sports activities.

We particularly would like to see any scheduled (or unscheduled) intake reunions take advantage of this event to swell the numbers for the overall activity.

Frank Maloney will be opening a web page shortly and posting details of the program and costs. I can promise a memorable and interesting time to members and their families.

## **SPAASSM**

Work is still progressing of the cataloguing of images from the Army Museum. I hope that shortly we will be able to post on the web site batches of photos that it is hoped that members can provide a caption, as the majority of images have no identifying caption and without such they are of limited interest and value.

Ian and Bill have been checking the hardcopy to the digitised image and in cataloguing in albums and cross referencing the original image. It is hoped to be able to shortly return the catalogued albums of original images to the memorial.

## **Vale**

Russell Evans advised the Committee that he has been notified of nine of our colleagues who have left us so far this year and he has sent condolences from the Association to the next of kins. Additionally, when advised of hospital admissions, he has contacted regional reps to organise hospital visits.

Don't forget to advise Russell and/or our webmaster Rod Eagleton of any deaths you may be aware of or any serious hospitalisations/illnesses that you may be aware of. It would be appreciated if intakes check the Vale page on our web site to ensure that it is up to date.

## Memorabilia

The memorabilia items available from Jack Westernhagen have now been modified to reflect those items that “sell”. The new list and prices are on the web site.

We still have a few DVDs of the Albury function left. These are particularly well produced and apart from recording the event it also captures they thoughts of many who attended and of the unique “Apprentice spirit”. As were required to purchase a bulk number from the producer, I am particularly keen to reduce our remaining stock to zero. There aren’t many left and the are truly a worthwhile memento.

## In Conclusion

1. We hope to see you at the AGM. If you can’t, then send a proxy to the Secretary.
2. Get any items you want raised at the AGM or the following committee meeting to the Secretary.
3. Notify the Secretary of any member who you wish to nominate for Life Membership or for the Association to put forward for Commonwealth honours.
4. When you receive the notice of the AGM and the agenda, please seriously consider whether you are able to fill any of the vacant positions.
5. If you haven’t already done so, please get your membership renewals in to the Treasurer ASAP.
6. Encourage other Apprentices to join the Association
7. **WATCH THE WEB SITE:**  
<http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/>

Regards to all

*Frank*

Frank Poole LTCOL(R) RAE(tn),  
President