

7th Intake Apprentice Reunion

The following is an excerpt of an e-mail received from Don McLeod

I have just returned from the Seventh Intake, Army Apprentices reunion (Saturday 16 th February 2002) at the gates of the old school at Balcombe Camp. We had a roll call of about 30 who turned out to have a look at the old area and renew some very old acquaintances of the days of 1952.

Mace Oval and a car park which was the Parade Ground is all that's left of the apprentices school which has been designated as a Heritage Place in the Mornington Peninsular Planning Scheme. We all took a short walk through the grounds which is now a housing estate. Some memories were working as the old shower block, post office, mess hall, sergeants and officers messes, to name a few were pointed out without argument. Though the old Signals Officers Mess still stands as pointed out Reg Elder an ex Appy who after Portsea opted for the Sigs.

Arthur Newman with the aid of Arthur McConnell done much of the organisation which is following previous reunions to the Mornington Peninsular. Staying at a Dromana Caravan Park and Tourist Park which has all the facilities for a comfortable holiday. The place has over 200 vineyards, wouldn't that been a interesting tour for those early apprentices.

We were welcomed by the Rosebud RSL and all had an enjoyable dinner recalling old mates, sharing old photographs and remembering mates that are no longer with us.

All the best Don McLeod
dwmcleod@hotmail.com

The picture of some of the ex-seventh.



BACK ROW: Bernie Sullivan, Peter Uzzell, Badden Jeffrey, Graeme Newgree, Arthur McConnell, Vince Nimmo, Jock McLeod,, Stan Whitwell , Noel Dent, Jim Sidwell,, Arthur Newman
FRONT ROW: Scott Branagan, Peter Andrews, Wally Cove, Carl Booth, Ron Fullerton

7th Intake 50th Anniversary

1952-2002

Mace Oval

Saturday 16th February 2002



BRIEF HISTORY –BALCOMBE ARMY CAMP

- 1940 The Australian Army established the Balcombe Army Camp and used it as a training area during World War 2
- 1942 1st Div United States Marine Corps utilised the Camp for R and R after the Battle of Guadalcanal during WW2
- 1948 The Australian Army Apprentices School was established on this site in conjunction with the Army School of Signals and School of Survey
- 1954 Dedication of the Balcombe Memorial Gates
- 1982 Army Apprentice School relocated to Bonegilla Vic.
- 1983 Camp closed and Mornington Shire took possession of the site
- 2001 Balcombe Memorial Gates, Mace Oval and adjacent Car park designated as a Heritage Place in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme.

7th Intake MOST WANTED LIST

1. Laurie BENNETT
2. Yank BRADSHAW*
3. Junior DAWSON
4. Spud CARLYON*
5. Kevin FISHER*
6. Keith FENBY
7. Joe FLANAGAN
8. Mick GILL*
9. Ted HAZALDENE
10. Kevin HOGAN
11. Graham LANG
12. Barry MASON
13. Snare head PIERCE
14. Paul TOOHEY*
15. Bob TURNER
16. Alec WEAVER*
17. WILLIAMS R.E
18. (Frogs eyes) WRIGHT PJ

(* Lost contact over the last few years)

If you know the whereabouts of anybody on the "Wanted List" please get them to contact me or please let me know

DECEASED

1. R. (Pirie) BAHNERT (VM)
2. Eric BRADLEY (VM)
3. Alan BRADBURY (Tels)
4. Steve CARTER (F&T)
5. Heinz COOPS BLUME (F&T)
6. I. DEANS (C&J)
7. DP (cordite) DENNIS (Plumber)
8. C. (Grilly) HAINES (F&T)
9. Rex JOHNSON (C&J)
10. K (Arkabird) KING (F&T)
11. John. (Tex) LEIGH (F&T)
12. Lyle. MAISEY (VM)
13. W (Brave Bill). MOREY (VM)
14. B. (Blair) PARSONS (C&J)
15. P. (ZEKE) PLAISTED (F&T)
16. Pete SKENE (F&T)
17. R SMITH (Tels.)
18. L (Blue) STIRLING (Tels.)
19. Ron. TOMPSON (VM)
20. Alan WALKER (Plumber)
21. C (Bluey) WALLER (Elec.)
22. Ian WATKINS (C&J)
23. Harry WHYTE (Tels.)
24. Frank. WILLIAMS (B/Smith)
25. WILLIAMS WJC (C&J)

Bruce Nelson is in a wheel chair, result of a stroke but is coping quite well. John Cochran has Parkinsons and is not coping to well. Everyone else I have contacted seem healthy, but a few of the fellows have sadly lost their wives and our condolences go to them.

If you are doing your maths that's 78 confirmed as still with us, and 18 no contact at all. **(Wanted List)** and 25 deceased A total of 121

It has been a privilege to contact and speak with you all again, and even if you are unable to attend the reunion we believe that you will be with us in spirit. 50 yrs and a lot of water has passed under the bridge The achievements that have been reached by our intake are simply amazing Those 3 years has proved to be a cornerstone to our development and even if you do not want to recognise it we accepted the good points as well as the bad and grew in body mind and spirit from that 3 year association

Yours in Good Health and Fellowship

Arthur "ARTEX" Newman