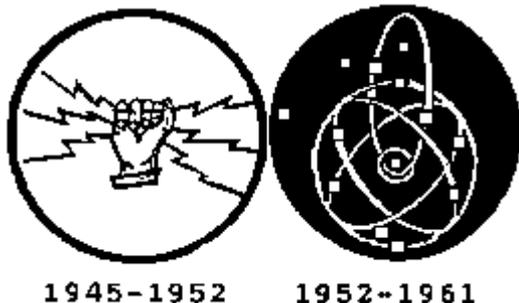


Brief History of the Radio Appy Scheme.



The Radio Apprentice School was formed at RAAF Frognall in December 1947. No 1 Course (comprising 16 trainees) began training in the first week of February 1948. Formal radio training was undertaken by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and this arrangement continued for the next 26 years. From 1948 until 1960 each new intake of Radio Apprentices undertook a

common course; this was the first six months of RMIT's Associateship Diploma in Communication Engineering.

Those who passed this common course continued with the Diploma course for a further 2½ years followed by one year at the RAAF School of Radio (RADS) which was then located at Ballarat in Victoria. On successfully completing this four-year training period, apprentices were awarded their Associateship Diplomas. Some were selected for a further years study at RMIT to qualify for a Fellowship Diploma, after which they were commissioned. Those apprentices who failed the six month common course were streamed into RMIT's Radio and Electronics Technician Certificate course. This was an 18 month course, and those who passed did a further eight months training in applied electronics at RADS before finally graduating.

In 1961 RADS moved from Ballarat to Laverton. So did the Radio Apprentice School which, on 1 May 1961, was reformed within RADS as Radio Apprentice Squadron. 1961 also saw the abolition of the six month common course at RMIT. Entrants selected for RAAF apprenticeships did RMIT's Radio and Electronics Technician Certificate course plus eight months in applied electronics at RADS. Entrants selected for the Diploma course went to Frognall as Officer Cadets.

In 1969 RMIT replaced its Technician Certificate course with a two year Trade Technician course. All RAAF Radio Apprentices undertook this course followed by a further eight months training at RADS. The RAAF's long association with RMIT ended in 1975, since than all Radio Trade Apprentice training has been conducted at RADS.



The Technologist Apprentice Scheme

1982 saw the introduction of the Technologist Apprentice Scheme to supplement the existing Radio Trade Apprentice scheme. This new scheme arose from a perceived need to train tradesmen capable of adopting a systems approach to the maintenance of modern, complex

high-technology aircraft now in RAAF service. Unlike their trade Apprentice counterparts whose two year course is conducted entirely at RADS, Technologist Apprentices undertake a three year Certificate of Technology course at Footscray College of TAFE as well as specialist training at RADS. 1988 saw the Certificate of Technology course upgraded to an Associate Diploma in Engineering (Electronics).