

SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1991/92

President	George Ricketts	Ph.	
Secretary/Treasurer	Alex Munro	Ph.	
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NEWSLETTER No. 1
AUGUST 1991

EDITORIAL

Well, at last I'm putting pen to paper for this our first newsletter for the Survey Ex-Servicemens Association.

First of all I would like to thank the people involved who helped me produce the articles you are about to read and a special thanks to Alex Munro for the help he has given me.

What I would like to say next is possibly the main reason that this article is being produced. At the Anzac Day Re-union this year one of the members said to me that he had spent a good part of his life in the Army and felt that a certain bond had existed between him and his fellow workers. He said that bond will keep him coming to the Re-unions to keep in contact with his old mates. When you think about it, that bond probably exists because sometimes we were living in each others' pockets, but I think we had a certain trust in each other whether it was driving on the road or cooking each others meals. We had to rely on each other to get the job done and virtually to exist.

Maybe that bond was there for the old diggers who fought during the Wars and that could be the reason that they remain good mates throughout their lives.

Anyway back to business-I hope you enjoy reading the news in our newsletter of which we aim to post out about 3 issues per year.

Newsletters produced in previous years lapsed from lack of input, so this is the chance to maintain contact with former friends and acquaintances around Australia. If you have any gossip, or exciting things are happening in your life, please write to me at 1722 Main South Road, O'Halloran Hill, 5158, or contact G. Ricketts or Alex Munro.

Jim Dunn

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

No invitations were sent out to ex-members this year by the unit social committee and apologies have been received for the matter being overlooked. It was an unfortunate omission, discovered only a few days before the dinner, however a quick phone around produced a few acceptances at short notice.

The dinner was held as usual in the Sergeants' Mess at Keswick on Friday 5th July 91, and was a pleasant evening with a few stayers still there at 2 a.m.

Three serving members - WO1 Marj. Knight, WO1 Stevo Hinic and S/Sgt John Ratcliffe - were farewelled from the Army after lengthy service careers, unfortunately in the absence of Marj as she was unable to attend.

George Ricketts was called on to speak in honour of the Corps Birthday and did so in his usual manner with a few well chosen words.

Besides George and his wife, also present with their wives were George Gruszka, Max Colletti, John Harrison, Alex Munro, Harry Dunn, Peter Davis, John Jones and Laurie Sutton.

VIETNAM PORT

The School of Military Survey held their Annual dinner at Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla, on Friday 28th June 1991. The theme for the evening was the 25th Anniversary of the move to South Vietnam by 1 Topo Survey Sqn. To mark the occasion a port crock was commissioned with a local winery.

I have no idea how good the port is, but the crock is of the usual squat shape, white in colour with the Corps badge etc. on the front and the names of all survey personnel who served in Vietnam listed on the back.

The price is \$20 per crock delivered to Keswick, so if you would like to purchase one, contact Alex Munro before the end of August, so that a consolidated order can be sent to the School.

SURVEYOR? TURNS TRUCKIE

And here's one for the books, old T.J. (John) Wicker, (41 is old is'nt it) has rejoined the Army in the Reserves, 15 months after retiring with 20 years service in Survey.

No, he has NOT rejoined Survey but deserted us to the Transport Corps. as a driving Instructor. He gets back his 2 stripes but says he won't be doing his Sergeant's Course. Come on John, this is your big chance to hit the big league.

John is presently employed with the State Government Consumer Affairs Department as a Recovery Officer. His work phone number is 226 8301. We all wish John good times with his new found interest.

SICK LIST

Many of our older members who served at Fortuna will remember Stuart Hall, who was in the draughting section there for many years, until his retirement in the late fifties, when he and his wife Jessie left Bendigo and settled in Adelaide.

Stuart recently underwent a serious operation, to remove a blood clot from his head, and although aged 84, he is convalescing well, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Of a later vintage, but also on the very ill list is Peter Puczkowski, better known in more recent times as Mine Host of the Exeter Hotel on Semaphore Road. Peter is suffering from cancer, and underwent major surgery to remove a lung on 4th July 91, at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He is now at home and is as well as can be expected given the serious nature of his illness, but still has a long way to go before being well again. For those wishing to enquire on a personal basis, it would be better to telephone first before visiting at this stage.

We all hope Peter is up and about as soon as possible, and wish him all the best.

JACK OF ALL TRADES & MASTER OF MANY

Believe it or not our President George Ricketts has entered Local Government as a Councillor with the Burnside Council. It all happened on May 4th when he won a 3-way contest for two positions in the Beaumont Ward scoring a record 899 votes. The catalyst for George's move was the installation by the previous Council of speed humps in what he says is a busy road, with poor consultation with the residents. He fought the installation at the time but lost, and so they went in. However, he knew the vast majority were against them so he decided to nominate with a policy of removing the humps.

George says that now the battle begins and already he has learnt a lot about intrigue in local government. Certainly an experience but I'm not sure that's what he wanted to learn at his stage of life.

In addition to being our President which is not that onerous, he is also General President of the Tranmere Bowling and Tennis Club (where Bill Love is also a member), is a member of Adelaide Legacy, and has a part-time job as Administration Officer with the Racing Drivers Association. George also does map updating for Viking O'Neil, a Melbourne based mapping firm who produces "Explore Australia" and many other publications.

So you can see he is pretty busy - He'll be wishing he was back in the Army again.

EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION

George Ricketts and Alex Munro attended the Bendigo AGM on Sunday 10th March 91, held in the grounds at Fortuna. The weather was perfect and there was a terrific roll-up.

Seen amongst the crowd were Tom Pattison, Peter Saunders, Jim Mulqueen, Tony Ellis, Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword (now retired and living in Queensland), Joe Farrington, Gordon Haswell, Steve McConnachie, Bill Forrest, Don Swiney (former Director of the RA Svy Corps), Jack Gore, Tom Chisholm, Neil Rankin, Harry Wright and Merv Marks.

Of great interest, some unit magazines in mint condition were displayed, produced at Fortuna during WW2.

Stan Vote is the new president of the Association.

ANZAC DAY RE-UNION

Our re-union this year was the best attended for some time and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the day thoroughly. The weather was about usual for Anzac Day, cold and blustery, but improved after mid-day. Most of those who took part in the march met at Keswick Barracks, and driven into town in a one tonne truck by Spr Gordon Santo-the very same one that was here in the mid sixties and now posted back. The Survey group was led by George Ricketts and the banner carried by Cpl. Barry Hogan (one of John Hogan's lads), fortunately finishing the march before a solitary rain squall drenched the tail end. Others who marched were Alan Adsett, Pat Cox, George Campbell-Kennedy, David Bowyer, John Whitburn, Alex Munro, Dave Collins, Bob Love, Bernie Watson, Eric Jewell (from Melbourne) and ARES member WO1 Bob Mills and other ARES members bringing up the rear. Back at Keswick, a BBQ lunch was organized by 4 Field Survey Squadron to which 25 ex-survey members turned up and mingled with the serving boys, creating a bit of a crunch in the canteen. After lunch and a few ales, the Annual General Meeting was held in the unit lecture room, lasting about an hour during which time George Ricketts was re-elected as President and Alex Munro as Secretary/Treasurer with the usual speed and gusto contrived by the assembly and not without some mirth.

A couple of interesting points were raised during the meeting but more of that later.

Eric Jewell (ex 1 Mob Litho) who was visiting Adelaide on holidays from Melbourne, was welcomed to the meeting. Subscriptions for 1991/1992 were set at \$2.50 and the cost of the lunch was \$2.50 also. After the meeting, everyone returned to the canteen for more nibbles and drinks and to reminisce for the remainder of the afternoon before gradually wandering away, some to the Sergeants' Mess across the road where the last stayers left about 7.30 p.m.

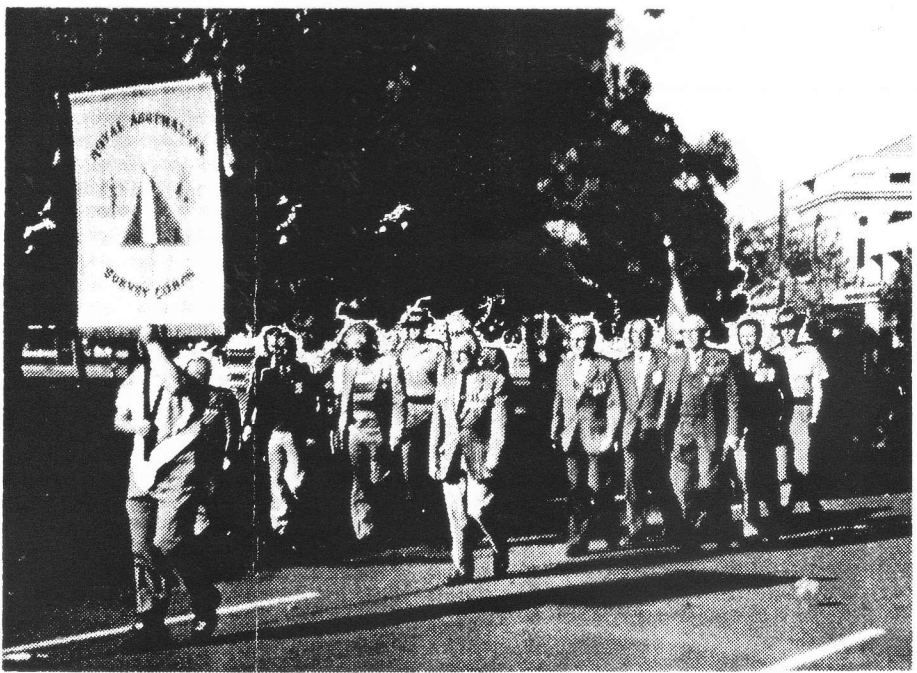


A.G.M. 1991

BACK ROW: John Harrison, Dave Cheesman, Max Colletti, Jim Dunn, Pat Cox,
Alex Munro

CENTRE ROW Peter Davis, Jim Nathan, Brett Knuckey, Alan Adsett, Rob
Langley, Laurie Sutton, John Wicker, Dave Collins, Harry Dunn

FRONT ROW Bob Griffen, Bob Cooper, Bernie Watson, Ken Jeffery, John
Whitburn, George Ricketts, Eric Jewell, Bob Love, Harry Brune.



Survey Group, Anzac Day March, 1991.



Chatting before
the March

Bernie Watson (L)
and
George Campbell-Kennedy

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

Warrant Officer Class 1 Stevo Hinic will be discharged on the 1st July, 1991, after twenty one and a half years service in the Army. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Survey Corps in Adelaide on the 20th January, 1970, under the Army Adult Trade Scheme.

In May 1972, he attended the 8/72 Intermediate Survey Course and three days after completing the course went to Papua New Guinea on a Control Survey Operation.

Stevo was promoted to Corporal in November 1972, and again went to PNG on control Survey work in 1973 and 1974. In 1975, he completed the 5/75 Advanced Geodetic Survey Course and promoted temporary Sergeant in November 1975. In the same year, he was involved in control survey work in the Yampi training area in W.A. and promoted substantive Sergeant in February 1976.

In 1978 he was posted to 2 Field Survey Squadron (Randwick) and promoted to Staff Sergeant. While in 2 Field Survey Squadron he was involved in survey operations in Central N.S.W. (1978), Fiji (1979), North Central N.S.W. (1979), Indonesia (1979), Soloman Islands (1980) and Indonesia (1980).

In March 1981, Stevo was posted to the School of Military Survey Bonegilla, and promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. He instructed on all promotion courses and was involved in the move from the old school to the new school located in Latchford Barracks, and in 1984 was posted back to 4 Field Survey Squadron.

Other places Stevo worked include Daly River, Port Keats, Roper River, Elliott and Katherine.

In 1986 he was posted to the Army Survey Regiment and was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 in January 1987. He then became SSM of the Survey Squadron and 18 months later SSM of the Cartographic Section.

In December 1989, Steve was posted back to 4 Field Survey Squadron as the Survey Corps Records Warrant Officer.

After discharge Stevo intends to settle in Adelaide and will enlist in the ARES Survey Troop.

Well done Stevo, and we wish you all the best in civilian life.



Bob Dikkenburg (Dikko) has agreed to be our resident Cartoonist and we are glad to have him aboard. Dikko has had many publications of his cartoons included in "The News", "Footy Punt" and the Army Newspaper. Looking forward to the next one Dikko.

SEEN ABOUT TOWN

Ross Hyde was seen about Town recently, on a visit from Bendigo-No other information.

Peter and Barbara Brunt have returned to Adelaide after many years based in London and working in the Middle East. It is not known how long they intend to stay.

WESTLINK

The Karrinyup Kid - S/Sgt Ray Sargeant was recently farewelled from the Army after 36 years,spanning service in National Service, CMF, Regular Army and the ARES.

Ray was posted to Keswick Barracks in the early eighties for two years and was very highly regarded for his management of survey stores and equipment during survey mapping operations in the Northern Territory during that time.Father Time amd the compulsory retiring age finally caught up with Ray and he was discharged at Irwin Barracks in Perth. Best of luck for the future Ray.

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2. Financial members of S.A. Branch