

SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1991/92

President	George Ricketts	Ph.
Secretary/Treasurer	Alex Munro	Ph.
Bulletin Editor	Jim Dunn	Ph.

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→ 50th Anniversary of
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NEWSLETTER No. 2
DECEMBER 1991

EDITORIAL

With the production of edition two, the committee now has a much better idea of the problems involved in producing our newsletter. For example, maintaining a suitable size overall, so that it can be posted at the most economical rate, reproducing photography to a reasonable standard from unsuitable originals, editing out spelling mistakes and grammatical errors (all the editors fault), that seem to slip into print no matter how much care is taken and most important of all, finding enough material to produce a reasonable article.

Although we will approach different people for ideas and information, we obviously cannot contact everyone for each publication, so we will need those extra snippets volunteered from you. The range of topics is very large if you think about it. Lets pull together on this one to produce a more interesting and readable newsletter.

The Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

FINANCIAL MEMBERS 1991-1992

George Ricketts

GLEN OSMOND 5064

Alex Munro

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS 5041

John Harrison

VALE PARK 5081

Dave Cheesman

HOPE VALLEY 5090

Max Coletti

MORPHETT VALE 5162

Jim Dunn

O'HALLORAN HILL 5158

Jim Nathan

FLAGSTAFF HILL 5159

Brett Knuckey

BIRDWOOD 5234

Allan Adsett

ABERFOYLE PARK 5159

Rob Langley

PARKSIDE 5063

Laurie Sutton

SEACLIFF 5049

John Wicker

BLAIR ATHOL 5084

Pat Cox
CRYSTAL BROOK 5523
Peter Davis
REDWOOD PARK 5097
Bob Griffin
c/- P.O. MILANG 5256
Bob Cooper
SOMERTON PARK 5044
Bernie Watson
MARION 5043
Ken Jeffery
EDEN HILLS 5050
John Whitburn
O'HALLORAN HILL 5158
Bob Love
STRATHALBYN 5255
Harry Brune
BURNSIDE 5066

✓ Dave Collins
ELIZABETH GROVE 5113
✓ Harry Dunn
HIGHBURY 5089
✓ Geoff Briggs
SEAVIEW DOWNS 5049
✓ Bob Ballard
GOOLWA 5214
Darcy Patrick
VALE PARK 5081
Mick Hansen
VALLEY VIEW 5093
Stevo Hinic
HENDON 5014
Colin van Senden
STRATHALBYN 5255

MIXED FUNCTION

Keep in mind the mixed function to be arranged for early 1992, as decided at the last AGM. Details will be notified by letter.

UNIT CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The 4 Field Survey Squadron held its Christmas function this year at the International Squash Centre, Hendon, on Saturday night of 30th November, 1991.

Association members attending with their wives were George Ricketts, Harry Dunn, John Harrison, Ian Belmont, Max Coletti, Peter Davis, Roy Castles, Alex Munro and Stevo Hinic going solo. If anyone missed out on receiving an invitation, please let Alex Munro know so that he can ensure their name is included on the unit address list of ex-members.

The smorgasbord provided was excellent, and once the meal and a few drinks were tucked away, the party livened up considerably. The dress theme for the evening was Hawaiian (for those inclined) which added a lot of colour to the occasion, in addition to the traditional yuletide decorations.

Highlights of the evening's entertainment were- a visit by Father Christmas (alias the chief clerk) giving each lady present a gift of perfume, - a solo guitarist accompanied by an electronic band - a limbo competition (not recommended for semi-senior citizens) won by John Hogan's son, Barry, and a truly giant raffle. The raffle was run throughout the proceedings, of about 50 prizes valued at near \$3,000 and donated by local business firms, with the prizes ranging from tickets to the football, T shirts, wine, beer, spirits, a return trip for two by bus to Sydney, a sea food voucher and lots more.

All proceeds were split between four charities and a total of \$833 was raised on the night. A very enjoyable evening and congratulations to the organizers.

JIM OTTE REMEMBERED

For those who might not know, Jim Otte died suddenly of a heart attack in November, 1988, while on his way to work in Adelaide. Jim was General Secretary of the Public Service Association (the Union arm of the Public Service) at the time, and his passing was sorely missed.

As a measure of the esteem in which he was held by the executive committee and members, a portrait was commissioned of Jim working at his desk, from an earlier photograph.

The portrait was hung in the main conference room at the association's headquarters, and the room was named the "Jim Otte Room".

Ex-Fortuna Association - AGM No. 2

The special meeting held in March '91 as reported in Issue No. 1 to decide on the future of the Association only elected a holding committee; so to formalise everything, another meeting was held on Saturday, 2nd November, 1991, but organized as a 2 day event, with visitors given the option of staying with local ex-members.

Pam and Laurie Sutton decided to attend, but instead of driving over, decided to take advantage of the cut price air fares at the time. At \$99 return Adelaide to Melbourne you can't go wrong and from there they drove from Melbourne Airport to Bendigo in a hire car.

An open day to inspect the Survey Regiment was arranged on the Friday, followed by drinks in the Sergeants' Mess hosted by the PMC-WO1 Graham Ragless. That night a dinner was held in the National Hotel on High Street for members and wives, but as everything was a bit hazy by the end of the evening, Laurie was unable to remember just who attended, but can remember Jack Gore and Jim Mulqueen. (You must have had a few drinks for the boys who were'nt there as well Laurie?)

The AGM was held on Saturday in the grounds of Fortuna, with a BBQ lunch and get together as the main activity, because the meeting was over very quickly, taking only a few minutes to decide on a committee and outstanding business.

Among those at the meeting were Stan Vote, Tom Royle, Tony Ellis, Lofty Turner, Tom Chisholm, Wally Mooney and his wife over from Adelaide also, and several visitors from Melbourne. Laurie voted the two days very enjoyable. Of interest to some - Pat Lumsden was the Duty Officer of the day.

Laurie and Pam spent Sunday with friends in Bendigo, and returned to Adelaide on Monday morning.

Some activities are being planned for next year to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Survey Corps in Bendigo, so if anyone is interested, let Alex Munro know, so that he can pass on details as they become known. (So fellas if you want a good drinking session don't miss it.)

SICK LIST

MARJ KNIGHT

Marj underwent surgery for the removal of a cancer growth last September, but reports feeling fine at the moment. Although the operation and subsequent recovery went well, she still requires regular checks to monitor the condition, but is very confident the worst is over. We hope so too Marj, and wish you a total recovery as soon as possible.

PETER PUCZKOWSKI

Peter is improving as well as can be expected, given the serious nature of his condition, and while the progress is steady, it is much slower than he would like. Let's hope recovery begins to speed up, Peter.

STUART HALL

Stuart is at home and getting around although on the slow side, and not enjoying the best of health at the moment, but hoping to improve in the near future.

FRANK BRYANT

Frank had a left knee replacement requiring extensive surgery over several hours, on November 19th this year. He explained the process to me, but it was a bit too hi-tech to retain, except that the replacement parts were made of teflon and titanium steel and were very expensive.

He is on crutches now, but will graduate to a walking stick before Christmas, and finally without support early in the New Year. If all goes to plan, as expected, Frank should be able to walk fairly normally in two or three months, and if completely successful, he will consider a similar operation on his right knee.

Those who served with Frank during the middle Fifties will remember the initial cause of his problem, when he had a nasty accident while on a survey trip near Port Augusta. Best of luck Frank, and we all hope for a speedy recovery.

VALE

TIBOR SZENTIRMAY

Died suddenly of a heart attack on Sunday, 8th September 1991, at his home in Bendigo. Known to all as Tibby, he was well respected for his expertise in the carto/litho areas of map production at Fortuna, until his retirement a few years ago, and will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, 11th September, 1991.

FRANK JOHNSON

The passing of Frank Johnson was noted with sadness, from a recent report in the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association Newsletter. Wayne Gillie passed on the news that it happened while Frank was playing golf near his home in Tasmania, in late September this year.

He served with Central Command Survey Section at Keswick Barracks for some years towards the end of his career, before moving on in 1958. Frank will long be remembered by those who served with him.

THE CORPS OLDEST SURVIVOR

Perhaps you have not heard of the name Jack Cullen, but those who have spent time at Fortuna, Bendigo, probably have and maybe you have met him. On 26th November Jack was 99 and the amazing thing is that Jack still lives on his own and fends for himself.

I'm not sure when Jack joined the Survey Corps but I think it would have been in the 20's. He was a Captain when he retired in Bendigo. His wife Wyn passed away some years ago and since then he has lived on his own. Jack has two daughters, Betty, I believe lives in Melbourne and Rosemary in Bendigo and naturally she keeps her eye on her father but he strongly defends his independence.

Jack was a draftsman in the days when all maps were hand drawn. He has a very keen sense of humour in a typically Irish way. Jack Cullen, we salute you and here's to 100.

George Ricketts

George Ricketts has been a member of the Probus Club(a club that helps the community) of Burnside since its inception nearly 10 years ago and at the October meeting our own Harry Brune joined the same club.

SEEN AROUND TOWN

Colonel John Hillier made a surprise social visit to the survey unit at Keswick in late October, 1991. He is researching local information for a proposed book on the Survey Corps.

MORE ON JOHN CULLEN

A request to Survey Directorate for additional information produced a copy of a short history on John Cullen's service life, written in the National Bulletin of 1982.

The copy was received after the earlier article was prepared, so the following information was extracted from the history, courtesy of the Bulletin:-

"John was born in Tipperary, Ireland, on 26th November 1892, and came to Australia in the early part of this century with his family, settling in Melbourne.

He joined the 1st AIF in early 1916, with the 7/8 Field Artillery Brigade, later serving in France with the 5 Divisional Trench Mortar Battery and then with the 5th Divisional Ammunition Column.

After returning to Australia and taking his discharge, John gained some survey experience which probably influenced his decision to join the Survey Corps on 18th October, 1920, with the rank of Corporal Topographer. He was employed in the production of military maps using traditional plane table methods, mainly throughout Victoria, and while surveying in the Yea area, he met and married his wife, Winifred, a gifted musician. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 in 1929.

John was serving with the No. 2 Survey Section P.M.F. at Woodend, Victoria, when WW II was declared. This section provided the cadre for No. 3 Australian Field Survey Company when it was raised in 1940. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1941, and remained with 3 Coy. until it moved from Queensland to New Guinea in 1943, when he was posted to 1 Australian Field Survey Training Depot as an instructor.

In March 1945, he was posted to A.H.Q. Cartographic Coy at Fortuna in Bendigo, where he remained until his retirement in August, 1952."

BARBEQUE AT TED'S PLACE

The barbeque that was to have been held at Beryl and Ted Bear's house over a year ago, but was postponed for good reasons, is now to be held early in the New Year on a date to be fixed.

Those who were going to attend originally will be contacted again, when the new date is finalised. Any more takers are welcome.

J.D.A.H. RETIRES FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

After more than 23 years in the Australian Army and 12 years with Mines and Energy, John Harrison has finally taken the big plunge and retired.

John was offered a "golden handshake" and officially retired on Friday 1st November, 1991.

After joining the Army in 1957 at the age of 17, John soon climbed up through the ranks and by the age of 30 was appointed to Warrant Officer, Class 1, Topographical Surveyor. John held that rank from January, 1969, until he retired from the Army in June, 1979.

In 1955, John attended Footscray Technical School and studied and passed the first year of the Diploma of Aeronautical Engineering, but in 1956 decided to join the Australian Army.

John was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1963, for services rendered on a survey operation in the Northern Territory in 1961. He travelled throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea during his career in the Survey Corps, most of his time in highly responsible positions.

In 1977, John saved an 11 year old boy who brought a long pole into contact with a power line, electrocuting himself. Endangering himself, John used a coat to insulate himself from the boy, before pulling him to safety and resuscitating him.

For this John received the Bravery Medal and the Royal Humane Society Bronze Award. John is on the Committee of what was the Association of Technician Surveyors - now called the Institution of Engineering and Mining Surveyors (IEMS) and has been Honorary Secretary since 1975. He is always looking for more members.

When asked about the future, John said at last he will spend a little time at home and find some time to paint the house. With that in mind, he said he has to organize a Joint Survey Congress in Cairns, Queensland, in May 1992. Maybe the house will get painted the year after.

We wish John all the best for the future.

THE QUEEN VERSUS LEN BEADELL

The following story appeared in the Advertiser about 3 months ago, so I phoned Len recently to ascertain the truth of the matter and obtain a few more details

An out-back tour operator approached Len to act as guide and story-teller for an intended tour of the old Woomera Rocket Range area and at the same time locate a few of the original astro-fixes observed by Len in the early fifties, as a point of special interest.

Eventually, a party of 17 fairly senior tourists was assembled, and set out for the bush to the north west from Coober Pedy, where Len was able to re-locate all his astro fixes using his old field books, as the party travelled along, no doubt accompanied with the odd anecdote or two.

Every-one was enjoying the tour up to the point where the bus entered Aboriginal Freehold Lands, while following along a road to the last two astro-fixes in the area, all secure in the knowledge that the necessary permits to enter Aboriginal lands were on hand.

When challenged to produce the permits by a wandering indigenous chap enquiring as to their presence, the tour operator suddenly discovered he had neglected to obtain them, which incensed the local to the extent that he sent a radio message to the police at Marla, stating his freehold land was being trespassed upon by a large group of tourists.

Although Marla is about 400 Kms to the east, it was not long before the gendarmes arrived - no less than 5 police vehicles and a combined force of 14 policemen, police aides and trainees or cadets- to escort the tour group back to Marla, there to be processed by the law at some length, and not without considerable inconvenience.

The tourists were each fined the minimum of \$30 plus court costs, for not knowing better as to where they were, but at least they had a good story to tell the folks back home.

However, Len and the tour operator were to be made an example of to Australia at large, and fined the maximum of around \$5,500, to which they objected no end, so the matter was sent to the Adelaide Magistrates Court for a decision.

Len hired a lawyer to represent him in court, had himself excused from the hearing, and promptly shot up to Queensland on another tour, business being business.

In the end common sense and justice prevailed, as aboriginal elders at Marla applied to have the charges withdrawn, plus it was adequately proved that Len was not responsible for the tour, so finally the magistrate brought the entire matter down to earth and fined both \$30 plus court costs.

Len told me that his legal costs were about \$750, which goes to show that justice is not without a price, and although there is a humorous side to the story, I'm sure it was an experience that Len could have done without.

ALEX MUNRO



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM
SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

