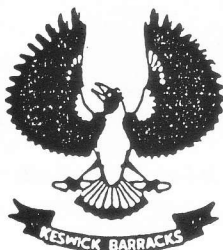


SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1992/93

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Bulletin Editor	Jim Dunn	Ph. 333 9010



NEWSLETTER No 4
AUGUST 1992

EDITORIAL

We are into August already and Alex and I have been quite busy getting this edition ready for publication.

This is our biggest issue yet and as you flip through it we hope you find most articles more than interesting.

We are starting to get a few people contributing to the newsletter and we thank them for their effort.

Bernie Watson has written a very interesting article about his enlistment during WW2 and if anyone else has any ideas for other articles around the WW2 era, let Bernie know on Phone 296 9573.

We wish also to thank Geoff Briggs for his article. Geoff has an interest in early South Australian history, and has spent many a long hour searching through records and archives.

Happy reading!

JIM DUNN

SICK LIST

PETER PUCZKOWSKI

It is 12 months since we first reported Peter had cancer, and he is still fighting on despite the loss of a lung and other bits and pieces. Chemotherapy of course has robbed him temporarily of his hair, but there are signs that the remaining cancer is shrinking, and hopefully it will continue to do so. Peter looks pretty well and tries to keep himself fit, having a positive attitude to his condition, which we all hope will soon improve.

MARJ KNIGHT

Since her operation for cancer last September, Marj has recovered fairly well, although her condition still requires to be monitored every three months. The last check was only last week and the pathology report showed the all clear, which was great news for Marj. She hopes the time between check-ups will soon go to four months and eventually to one year, and we hope so too Marj. She reports feeling pretty healthy at the moment, and with a bit of luck should remain that way.

FRANK BRYANT

As reported in our last newsletter, Frank was waiting for an operation to re-align his left knee-cap which had set a bit off centre after a previous operation to re-construct the knee. The operation was successful, and the knee is progressing well, although it will require rest and physiotherapy for a long time yet. Frank's right knee also requires reconstruction, but he reckons that it will be at least 12 months before that will be attempted, so lets hope a good recovery is not too far into the future.

ROBIN WILSON

Robin has recovered from his hernia operation of last April, but is now trying to shake off a dose of the 'flu which he reckons is far worse than the after effects of his operation. With luck, Robin should be fighting fit again in a few weeks.

ON "JOINING UP" - 1940 STYLE

It was into the evening of Sunday, September 3rd, 1939 when I arrived back in Melbourne from Ballarat, via a furniture van. At that time I was a member of the Coburg Harriers Club and we had been to Ballarat to take part in the Victorian 5-Mile Cross Country Championship. As many of us were out of work and the rest of us, being fairly young, were not in well paid jobs - the Depression being not yet over - our cheapest mode of transport was to hire a furniture van and all pile in. (A fitting introduction to Army transport) The City was full of people, traffic and noise, paper boys selling special editions announcing that War Was Declared, and all was bustle and excitement, with everyone giving their opinions about what it would mean for us all.

A few days later I managed to find the recruiting Office of the Air Force, it being located in a quiet street off Collins Street, called Market Street. The office was staffed by some very snooty "Blue Orchids" who soon showed me the door - because I had'n't matriculated!! Although I had done the course in 1933 or 4, I had become ill just before the exams and so had'n't sat for them. Nevertheless, the Air Force did'n't want to know me. So, feeling much disgruntled, I went back to work and finished my apprenticeship as a Lithographer at the end of the year.

By this time the war had entered the phase known as the "Phoney War", when nothing much seemed to be happening and everybody was saying it would soon be over. Of course, it was also the Northern Winter, and while nothing much seemed to be going on, there must have been an enormous amount of activity occurring behind the scenes getting ready for the Spring and Summer assault. We who were in employment going about our daily business didn't pay much attention to the war until the fall of Paris, when we really knew it was on in earnest. The rush to join up was something to behold, the recruiting offices couldn't cope with the numbers applying and crowds of young men were waiting for hours outside the doors. The day I decided to enlist was a Friday night after work, toward the end of June 1940. I went to the Melbourne Town Hall and couldn't get in, the place was full and there was a crowd on the footpath. There was nothing for it but to wait, so I went for a swim in the

City Baths, had a meal, and rolled up again about a quarter to nine. By this time the crowd outside had gone through and it was reasonably calm inside, though still busy. By the time the usual forms had been filled in and a medical exam passed it was late in the evening and the R.R.D. at the Caulfield Race Course had stopped receiving for the night, so I was told to report there on the Monday morning. BUT, over the week-end the Government had stopped receiving recruits, in Melbourne anyway, because the camps were full. This state of affairs persisted through all of July and well into August, with my periodic haunting of the recruiting office. Eventually, recruiting was recommenced, but by now the Army had lost my papers - (typical?) Anyway, the papers were found at last and I was accepted into the A.I.F. — but not before one more hurdle had to be jumped. Because so much time had elapsed since my first medical exam, it was decreed that I must have another one. Everything went well until near the end, when the examining doctor declared that I had piles and that I would never be able to march and carry a pack! Well, do you think I went to town about that! I pointed out that I was the 5-mile Cross Country champion of the Coburg Harriers Club, I was an A-grade miler in the track season, and that the previous Easter I had hiked for three days through the Whittlesea Ranges, carrying a 65lb pack! It was while I was carrying on about this, that a much older doctor came in, a Major I think he was, and after listening for a while he came over and said "let's have a look, son", after which he said "you'll be alright, lad, you'll do", and I was in! He was right, of course, because I've still got 'em, and never a bit of trouble. So that's how I finally got into the A.I.F. in 1940, on the 26th August.

BERNARD WATSON

VX 38633

PRE-ANZAC DAY DINNER FOR MEMBERS AND WIVES

The idea was suggested at the re-union in 1991, as a night out for members and their wives or friends, to get together before the Anzac Day re-union, so it was put to the test on Saturday, 11th April, at the College Arms Hotel in Currie St., Adelaide. Those who attended were Bob and Margaret Love, George and Marj Ricketts, Lou and Beryl Bear, Alex and Joan Munro, Laurie and Pam Sutton, John and Pam Harrison, Rob and Julie Langley, Harry and Dianne Dunn, Bob and Rhonda Cooper, Ken and Beth Jeffery and there were two late apologies.

Dress for the night was casual and we met in the front bar at 6.30 p.m. for a pre-dinner drink, while waiting for everyone to arrive, before moving into the dining room. The dining room was large and pleasant and we were all seated at one very long table, with the place to ourselves except for a small group celebrating a birthday.

The menu had a good selection of dishes and the prices were reasonable, with the dearest main course costing \$7.95. Everyone ordered and paid at a small bar, eliminating the old problem of paying as a group after the dinner when a lot of us have trouble remembering how many drinks we had. There was a side table of bread, rolls, salads etc and waitresses served our meals.

The courses were spread out, allowing plenty of time to chat between ourselves in a relaxed atmosphere. The serving staff were young trainees from the TAFE college, which manages the hotel as a training venue. The "head waiter" was a young wag who promised to play a few tunes on the piano which he did later in the evening, proving to be a competent pianist, entertaining us for a while on the grand piano near the end of our table.

I think the wine may have taken hold by this time, as we all joined in with the birthday crowd in singing "Happy Birthday" when the cake was brought out all lit up with sparklers.

The party broke up about 10.30p.m. after a very pleasant evening and I'm sure everyone would agree that it is well worth noting on the social calendar for next year.

ALEX MUNRO

RETIREMENT OF FRANK BRYANT

Frank retired from the Department of Lands on 12th June, 1992, as General Manager of the Centre for Remote Sensing at Technology Park. His first position in the Department was in the photogrammetry section (from memory) at Netley, which he took up in late 1979, after leaving the Army.

His retirement is a few months earlier than would have been, because of his knee problems. As Frank related, by the time he would be fit enough to resume full time duties, it would leave just a few short months before he reached the compulsory retiring age, so thought it best to pull the pin now, allowing a replacement to be found that much sooner.

Frank and Naomi have recently had a house built at Victor Harbor, and are looking forward to spending some time there, not on a full time basis, but commuting down at week-ends from Adelaide and for longer periods in the better weather. To both, Best of luck in retirement.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL

The official unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial will take place in Canberra on Saturday, 3rd October, 1992.

Colonel Alex Laing is organising a re-union for that week-end for all Survey members who served in Vietnam. Because all hotel and motel accomodation in Canberra is thought to be completely booked out over the Saturday and Sunday, Alex and a few others from the Canberra association are going to billet those attending, using bedding supplied from the School at Bonegilla.

It should be a good week-end, so if anyone would like more detail, contact Alex Munro. At the moment at least two are going over.

ANDY STRACHAN NOW RUNS THEM IN

After many years of being engaged in surveying associated with oil exploration and building construction, Andy decided to change direction entirely as far as future employment was concerned, and recently was accepted, as the oldest recruit ever, into the South Australian Police Force. Best of luck in your new job Andy.

KARL BRATZ - AN AUSSIE BATTLER

It is with considerable regret that I pass on the news that Karl is suffering from bowel cancer, which has not responded to chemotherapy, so it is now simply a matter of time before his system packs it in. But just how long is anybody's guess. He is now in the Coober Pedy hospital, receiving daily medication of morphine to make things as comfortable as possible for him, and I imagine staff are looking after him as well as possible.

Karl has accepted his situation with a very positive attitude towards living, treating each day as it comes, as best he can. He was in the former Central Command Field Survey Unit at Keswick, before his discharge in the early sixties, and even after 30 years is still remembered when former members of the unit get together, and the odd tale or two of old times is being related.

I can remember working with Karl on a tellurometer traverse somewhere S.E of the present day Mintabie opal fields, when I shot a small duck for the pot, which he decided to cook in the aboriginal way(so he said) by covering the whole duck with thick mud and baking in hot ambers. The theory is that as the mud dries and falls away, so do the feathers and other bits, leaving a well cooked duck.

There was a problem, with no known mud for a few hundred miles or any suitable soil either, but there was plenty of the fine reddish sandy kind, which he mixed with water producing a very thin and gritty mud of sorts, and somehow managed to scrape enough over the duck, before dropping it into the campfire. Later in the evening, a charred mess was pulled from the embers, which I point blank refused to touch, although Karl nibbled a bit, just to prove that it was probably edible.

He always had his own ideas(generally less conservative than most) on how things should be done, and was something of a personality, but a good hand to have around. Karl always worked on survey jobs, moving around outback Australia with various mineral and oil exploration companies such as Western Mining, often in areas where less adventurous surveyors preferred not to go.

He decided to settle in Coober Pedy about 8 years ago, when he set up a business undertaking survey work around the opal fields, but never once became interested in opal mining. Karl gave up the business a short time back, as Government restrictions plus the tax man made it difficult to remain viable. He also helped out on community projects such as the town water supply and the survey work required for the local cemetery.

When Karl became aware of his cancer condition, he tidied up his affairs, and made arrangements to dispose of his survey equipment. He didn't lose his sense of humour either, as I've been told he considered buying 5000 crown seals with the idea of using the lot for his beloved homebrew, while there was still time. Karl was a home-brew boy from way back, and I have a vague recollection of once trying out one of his early attempts at grog making.

Going back a few months, after discussion with a few mates and more or less as a joke, he decided to have a coffin made, not of wood as is usual, but of galvanised corrugated iron-the "classic Aussie material"- as Karl said. He was duly measured and the coffin made, and placed in his lounge room to wait until finally needed.

He has become a bit of a celebrity of late, as articles about Karl, his cancer and coffin, have appeared in the Advertiser of 25th April, 92 and the Post of about one month ago, and although I have read the Advertiser article, I have been unable to buy a back copy of each, so either they all sold out on the day or perhaps Karl bought all the remaining copies.

I tried to ring him at his dug-out home about one week ago, and when there was no answer, I phoned the Bar at the Desert Cave pub, where the barman gave me an update on Karl's condition and put me onto the hospital, where staff gave me another update, before putting my call through to him.

It was the first time I had spoken to him in an estimated 27 years, and I suppose it was strange for both of us after such a long time, but I found Karl's memory to be pretty good. For anyone interested in making contact, the phone number of the Coober Pedy hospital is (086)725 009.

From what I remember and from what I've been told, I reckon Frank Sinatra's old song "I did it my way" could well apply to Karl.

ALEX MUNRO.

P.S. Since writing the article, Karl has been shifted to the Mary Potter Hospice at Calvary Hospital, Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide.

REPORT ON OUR ANZAC DAY RE-UNION, 1992

The Anzac Day re-union this year was again a very enjoyable event, helped along by fine and sunny weather, which is not always the case. There was a good roll up and I'm sure all who attended had a pleasant day.

Some of those marching in the Parade met at Keswick Barracks at 9 a.m. as usual and were driven to the form-up point to meet the others in the back of a covered truck, driven once again by Sapper Gordon Santo. Some thoughtful lad had covered the wooden seats with blankets so the short trip was quite comfortable; thanks again Gordon.

There were fewer of us than usual this year, but enough to make a go of it, and with Cpl Mark Linwood very smartly turned out in uniform, leading the way as our banner bearer, we made a reasonable show of it. Carrying the banner is not as easy as it looks, and our thanks go to Mark for a job well done.

There was a surprise addition to our ranks just before the half way mark, when the Director of Military Survey, Colonel Simon Lemon joined us. He was over from Canberra on holidays, and as he didn't know the location of our form-up point in Victoria Square, kept a look out until we marched by.

After the march finished at Pennington Gardens, there was a chin-wag for a while, before we split up into those remaining for the memorial service and those returning right then to Keswick Barracks with Gordon, who returned later and picked up the others after the service. Colonel Lemon returned with us to the Survey Canteen at the barracks for drinks and the BBQ that followed, to which all former survey members were invited, courtesy of the OC, Major Andy McLeod. Twenty four association members attended the function.

After the BBQ, we adjourned to the the unit conference room for our AGM, which lasted about 45 minutes. The main item discussed was whether the association should become incorporated to safe-guard members against possible court action in the event of personal injury at a function. This will be finalised in our next newsletter. Also discussed was the recent relaxation of rules by the RSL, as to who is eligible to march in the Anzac Day Parade. After the meeting we all returned to the canteen again for drinks and nibbles and further reminiscing. Later in the afternoon there was a surprise visit by 4 pipers and 2 drummers from the Adelaide Highland Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Jim Love, who entertained the gathering with a treat of pipe and drum music before joining us for drinks.

As you may have guessed Pipe Major Jim is the son of Bob Love, who arranged everything. Bob has since told me that Jim was one of three pipers invited from Australia two years ago to play at a "Beating the Retreat" ceremony in Horse Guards Parade, London, to mark the 200th anniversary of the forming of Scottish Regiments into the British Army.

By this time the sun was getting low in the west and everyone beginning to drift their various ways, so the re-union ended when the last remaining members moved across the road to the Sergeants' Mess to finish the day.

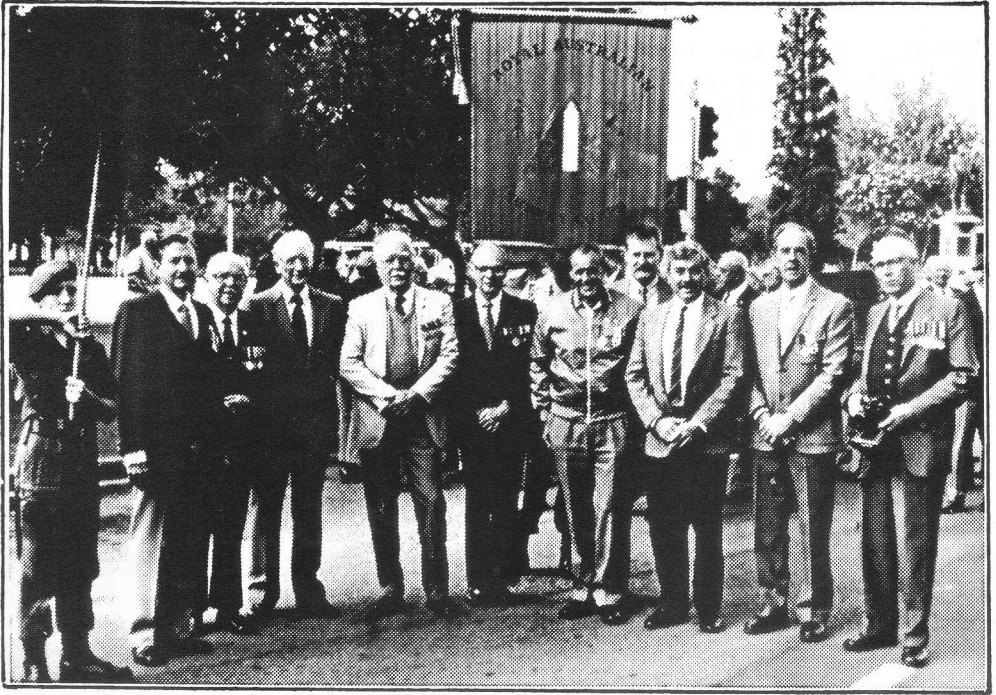
- ALEX MUNRO.

A. G. M. 1992



L to R - FRONT ROW—JIM NATHAN, BERNIE WATSON, HARRY DUNN,
GEORGE RICKETTS, ALEX MUNRO, BOB LOVE, GEOFF BRIGGS,
CENTRE ROW—JIM DUNN, JOHN WICKER, JOHN HARRISON,
LOU BEAR, DAVE CHEESMAN, ROB LANGLEY, PAT COX.
BACK ROW— BOB GRIFFIN, MAX COLETTI, DARCY PATRICK,
WALLY MOONEY, KEN JEFFERY, JOHN GASKELL.
NOT INCLUDED IN PHOTO: IAN WARK, BOB COOPER, BOB WILLIAMS,
AND TONY STEPHENS

ANZAC DAY PARADE, 1992.



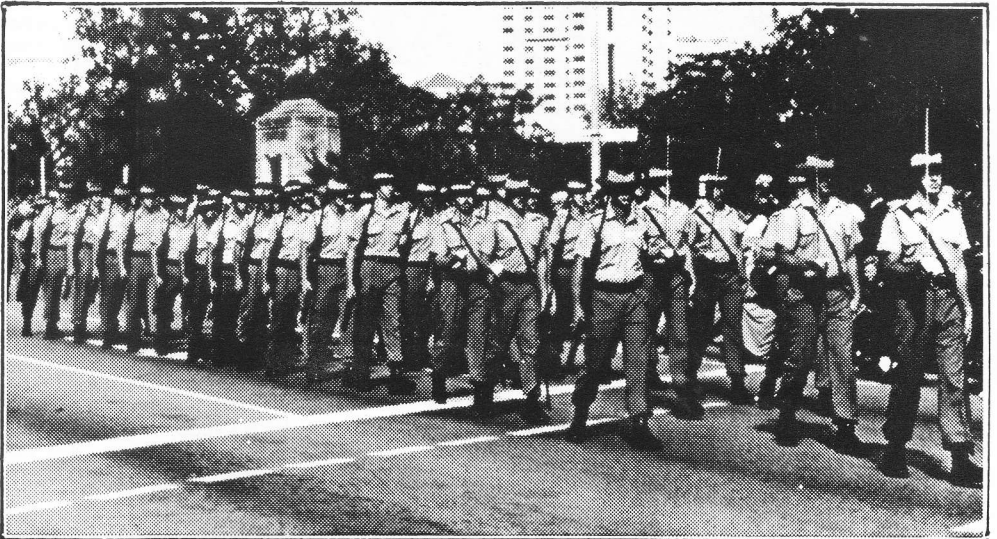
L to R SCHOOL CADET (UNKNOWN), ALEX MUNRO, GEORGE RICKETTS, FRANK Mc MILLAN, BOB LOVE, GEORGE CAMPBELL- KENNEDY, PAT COX, JOHN WICKER, BOB COOPER, DAVE COLLINS AND BERNIE WATSON. HIDING BEHIND THE BANNER IS CPL MARK LINWOOD.



"EYES RIGHT" - PASSING THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL



SURVEY GROUP—ANZAC DAY PARADE,

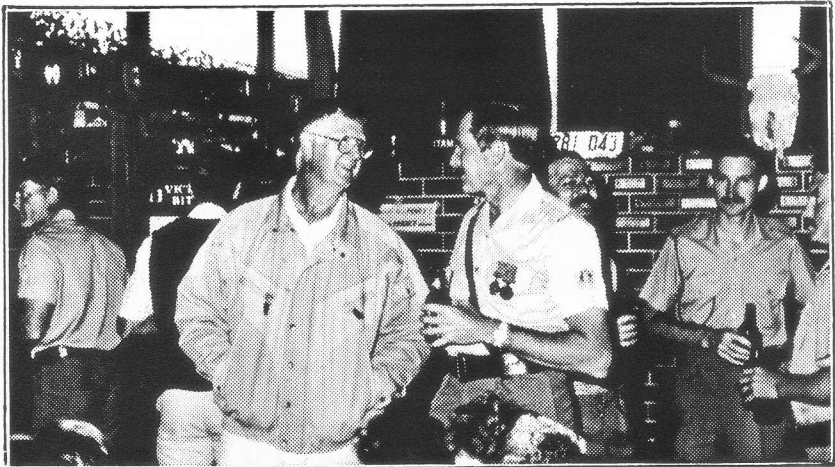


4 FIELD SURVEY SQUADRON
CROSSING THE ADELAIDE BRIDGE

ANZAC DAY BARBEQUE



L to R BERNIE WATSON, BOB LOVE AND GEORGE RICKETTS.



ENJOYING A JOKE—JOHN HARRISON AND WO1 BOB MILLS

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CPL. TERRY KING

Good quality colour prints of all photographs shown are available. Contact Alex Munro if interested.

*

Following my article on Robert Buck in Ed.3, the following relates to his great grand-father Robert & family, & also to early surveying in SA.

EARLY SURVEYING & CHARTING IN S.A.

Brigadier L. Fitzgerald, in his book 'Java la Grande' described the exploration of our southern shores by the mysterious Portugese seafarer Christova de Mendonca circa 1521, out of Malacca, in three caravels. Mendonca landed at a number of places, including the now Victorian coast & the Kimberleys. Did he explore the eastern coast of Gulf St Vincent?

In 1627, the Dutch Capt Francois Thijssen with Pieter Nuyts visited our western shores, as far as Ceduna. Abel Tasman bypassed SA in 1642. After Capt Cook's charting in 1770, the coast line of the fifth great continent was known, except in the southeast.

Capt Matthew Flinders & Nicolas Baudin charted & surveyed that in 1802, prior to their tragic imprisonment & death, respectively, on Mauritius, their Nations being at war in 1803. Their charts were published in 1814 & 1808; Flinders' were superlative, with both a narrative & Naval Hydro-graphic version, appearing on the day of his death, in 1814, at age 40. Their charts show Sandy Point, now the P. & E. Est. south of Pt Wakefield; but north, 'nothing but mud & sand banks'.

Whaling, carried out along the entire SA coast since 1800, reached a peak in 1826, there were over 200 whalers at work on Kangaroo Island, & they visited the mainland coast. In 1833, Capt John Jones from Tasmania resupplied the KI whalers, & explored the east coast of the Gulf in 1834. He found The Port River, & nominated it as an excellent harbour; Capt Collet Barker had found its inlet in 1831, & it appeared on the House of Commons Map of Colonization in 1836, known as ~~the~~ Sixteen Mile Creek.

Robert Buck was born in 1789, near Greenwich on the River Thames, County Kent. In 1805, he was a seaman-at-war in the Battle of Trafalgar. The Buck name appears in ancient languages, Old Anglaice, Middle English, etc. Buck-ing-ham(let) was the only town separately mentioned in the Domesday (land survey) Book of 1086, having been created the Sovereign's country seat in 886. The name has always meant 'the stong males' i.e. stags, deer, goats, hares, etc; & also to do with large forest trees i.e. boc/bole/butt, habitable by the bucks.

Robert married Maria Oliver Robertson of London in 1816; they resided at Dept(deep)Ford on the south side of the Thames, 3.5 miles east of Inner London, ie at Long. 01'W., opposite The Isle of Dogs which had the docks & store-houses of the East & West Indies Coys, & adjacent to The Royal Docks, as shown on the maps of 1700 & 1820. Their first seven children were born there, 1819-33.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield & Robt Gouger created a new concept of colonisation for SA, enacted in 1834 by the Parliament of Great Britain. Col. Wilm Light was appointed Surveyor-General on Feb 4 1836, at £400 pa. The 'RAPID' was purchased for £1700, to be Col. Light's Survey Ship. Col. Light was too ill to sail on Mar.24, in lead of the second Survey ship 'CYGNET', which carried the Deputy Surveyor-General Geo. Strickland Kingston, (later Knighted), an Irishman with a brief education in architecture & engineering, none or little in surveying, & ignorant of maths.

On April 30 1836, Robert & his first-born Robert Jnr, age 17, were given free passage on the 'RAPID' to SA as crew members, Robt Snr. also as ship's cook; their agent-guarantor was Colonel William Light, the ship's CO. They were the 308th & 310th applicants, & the 120th & 122nd embarkations for SA. They were both paid for their duties aboard.

The 'RAPID' was built at Yarmouth in 1826, she was a 2-masted brig of 153 tons, rigged as a snow, 70'x22'x14', & refitted in 1836 as a survey-ship, at 162 tons. Besides the Surveyor-General/CO, the Officers were Lt. Wilm Geo Field 1st Off., Sub-Lt Wilm J S Pullen RN, 2nd Off. & Asst Svyr, (& later Admiral), Mr Robt K Hill 3rd Off, & three more gentlemen-of-means whose passages were not defrayed by the Emigration Fund, namely Asst Svyr's Wilm Jacob, Wilm Claughton, & the Survey Surgeon Dr John Woodforde. The Svy Laborers were Wm Freemantle, Wm Lawes, & Geo Penton. Also on board the RAPID were Maria Gandy as Col. Light's companion, Mrs Bradley, the boatswain's wife, & the 13 well-selected seamen, making a total of 7 gentlemen, 1 lady, & 17 emigrants. The rest of the survey team, Kingston, & Asst Svyr's Finnis, Neale, & Jnr Svy Assts Symonds, Cannan, Hardy, Ormsby, Carrington, & svyr's laborers, were on the 'CYGNET', the other survey ship, a 3-masted barque, 239 tons. The Svy Lbrs were engaged for a year, at 12/- a week, plus naval rations.

The RAPID sailed from London City Canal on May 1st, & arrived at Nepean Bay KI, 112 days later on August 20, after what Pullen described as a very pleasant voyage, & the fastest of any in 1836; both aspects were a tribute to Col. Light's style of leadership, his personality, & his skill. Robert cooked for the company in a small deck-house, the caboose; below, there was only 4'1" between the two decks. The cooking & catering gear included a grid-iron, 6 wine glasses, a corkscrew, & a coffee-mill.

In the absence of the CYGNET, which visited Rio, arrived Sep 11th, after a fractious cruise of 171 days, & squatted in Nepean Bay for a month!, Col. Light had immediately commenced his surveys duties, in the RAPID. Both ships were well equipped for their tasks, & had a year's provisions. The Svy-Gen had been given a ludicrous set of instructions in London, but paramount was to establish the site of the capital, & survey it for use. He explored Encounter Bay en-route to KI, then Rapid Bay, in which he found great comfort, appeal, & an ideal svy camp. He continued assiduously north, landing often & walking through areas which delighted him, charting the waters & surveying the land at each location, & always looking for the reported 'fine harbour', the crux of emigration. By Sep 27, he reached the Gulf head, & despaired. 'no Port!'. Running south, with Mr Pullen in the hatch-boat hugging the shore, Col Light saw Pullen enter an inlet. The next day Col. Light explored part of this inlet, but it was not until Nov 22nd that he actually solved its whole mystery, & declared it the Harbour, The Pt of Adelaide. He then explored Pt Lincoln. On Dec 22nd, Svy-Gen Light, in a small boat, happily led the RAPID & the 360 ton barque 'TAM O SHANTER' up the Port Adelaide River to harbour & land. Between 1837 & his death at age 54 on Oct 6th 1839, Col. Light designed & surveyed Adelaide, the surrounding country, & controlled surveys in other important areas, despite immense hardships & tribulations, natural & bureaucratic.

Robert Buck was the 'lighter-man' in the Pt of Adelaide, taking off heavy cargoes in the North Arm, & in Gawler Reach for smaller ships. For emigrants, he was 'ferry-man', landing them at the Custom House & pub where Col Light's (Old) Pt Road met them, at the closest approach of dry land to water, via 400 yards of mangrove, cut for a channel to Pt Misery, i.e the shallowest part of the Old Port Reach. For VIP's, he was 'guide', meeting them at the anchorages, Pt Malcolm (the Fort), or at Semaphore, where ships were sighted & signalled, both for their own relief, & for news to the Port establishment. Robert took these paying passengers overland through the sand-hills to the same destiny. However, he provided cold salt-water baths for all at 'Buck's Flat', opposite the landing channel: 'bath before I ferry you'..? Fresh water was later found in wells on Robert's land in 'Watervale' (behind the Exeter pub) & he established his hot & cold fresh water baths; the arrival of emigrants reached about 3500 pa. The trek from Watervale to Pt Misery was via 'Buck's Terrace', now Bartley Tce, West Lakes, to Buck's Flat, on the west shore of Pt Misery. Port Adelaide Football Club was to play its first match on Buck's Flat in 1870.

Robert's wife Maria arrived on the 'CLEVELAND', Dec 18 1839, with their other children, Wllm Henry (17), Phillippa, Susannah, & Henry Wllm (6); Wllm was a seaman. Maria's was the 3110th embarkation to SA. Phoebe was born at Pt Adelaide on Sep 20 1840,; 'what a reunion!'. With Robt guiding them, all the sons went on to be mariners, ship-wrights, & pilots, building & operating the Buck Line of small ships for coastal trade to as far as Robe, KI, Pt Lincoln, & Freemantle, & including the transportation of the unwelcome Chinese emigrants to the Vic. goldfields, via the 'back-door' at Robe. Wllm Henry was sent to be a gold-digger in Vic., & returned with a small fortune, which bought pastoral land on KI, whilst the family also purchased land along the Gulf coast, to Goolwa. Robert collected 1/4 of the gifts to establish the C.of E. Church of St. Paul, Pt Adelaide, 1841; & bought part of the glebe land at Albert Town. In 1842, Robert & sons built the cutter 'William Henry'. With Capt R Buck as Master, it traded in both Gulfs & to KI. Being intentionally small, it was able to reach the furthest into the Port River, ie to Bucks Flat.

On June 20 1849, the Adelaide newspaper 'Register' reported: 'An important discovery has been made at the head of Gulf St. Vincent by Mr. Buck, being nothing less than the existence in that quarter of an available harbour for coasters of some burthen, with good natural accommodation for the purpose of loading and discharge. The harbour is the embouchure of the River Wakefield (which was named in 1838 by Wllm Hill, pastoralist) and though being anything but obvious to mariners uninitiated in the mysteries of the locality, it is nevertheless easy of approach and secure. By this discovery, about 50 miles of land carriage between the shipping place at Pt. Adelaide and the Burra Burra will be cheaply substituted by water conveyance; we understand that Mr. Buck has already entered into a rather large contract with the Manager of the great smelting works near Kooringa (Burra) for the conveyance to and from, of fuel, metallic copper, etc..'

Robert named his discovery 'Port Henry', after his sons, & with deference to the Governor Sir Henry Fox Young, & Sir Henry Ayers, Secretary of the SA Mining Assctn., who worked the Burra mines. When a town was surveyed there in Apr. 1850, the name proposed was 'Pt Young', 'the Guv demurred', because the place was so unattractive in appearance; so it was re-named 'Wakefield' & proclaimed a Port in May 1850!. Capt. Buck's trade there was massive, since his small ships, such as the 'PHOEBE', were well suited. Some of his other ships were the 'Robert & Maria', a pleasure craft which raced in Pt River Regattas, 'Fame', a 62 ton schooner used to transport the Chinese emigrants to Robe, & the 'Joseph Lee Archer', which he bought.

Maria died at Watervale in 1857, Robert in 1872; both were buried at the Albert Town Cemetery, which is now desecrated. 'R.I.P., Master Mariner'

Each generation of Robert's descendants to date have included master mariners, located at places such as KI, Wallaroo, Newcastle, Freemantle, Melb., etc.; but Able-Seaman Clifford T Buck was lost-at-sea with HMAS Sydney in Nov 1941, in engagement with the German cruiser 'Kormoran'.

A remarkable exception to these sea-farers was Robert Henry Buck, 1881-1960; his mother was of the Irish 'Breaden' family which established runs in the northern parts of SA, & in the NT, sending the best of re-mounts to the Cavalry in India, & cattle to Adelaide etc. In 1905 he joined his uncles, & became the station-owner at Renner's Rock, amongst others. Bob was the ground-manager for Donald Mackay's aerial surveys of 1930-37 in SA, WA, & NT, over about 1/3 of the continent. Lake Buck, NE of Tamani NT, was named in respect of Bob's contributions to the project's success.

He was known as 'Bob Buck the Bushman'. Without formal training, Bob had all the skills of an explorer/surveyor, & was highly regarded as a veteran of the entire area, & an expert 'camelier'. On Thurs June 5th 1930 he recorded in his diary 'my first go in the air, 160 miles out'.

After Lewis H B Lasseter perished in the Peterman Ranges, 1930, during an attempt to re-locate his gold-reef, seriously financed by the Central Aust Gold Explrtn Coy, several searches were mounted from Sydney, his home-town; ground & air attempts were made, ending in trauma & failure. Lasseter had quarrelled with all of his party, & gone on alone. Bob was engaged to find Lasseter in 1931; he eventually found Aborigines wearing belts of camera film, Lasseter's, & they told Bob that Lasseter had pegged an area, nearby. Bob found Lasseter's shallow (aboriginal) grave on March 29, re-buried the body deeper, & returned to Alice Springs with Lasseter's false-teeth & papers: the Coroner found that he had died of starvation, awaiting re-supply, whilst living with the Aborigines for 16 weeks. Bob was feted in Sydney, & led numerous expeditions to un-cover the reef of gold, to no effect; he came to believe that it existed only in Lasseter's imagination; many did not agree, & continued to search. In 1958, Bob was the chief pall-bearer at the lonely re-interment of Lewis Lasseter's remains in the Alice Springs cemetery in 1958.

'He buried him twice'.


Bob was also renowned for his good sense, hospitality, & humour; he was a notorious yarn-spinner, most of his stories were true ie 'mustering cattle by boat'. On his visits to the Alice, he was an identity amongst friends at the Stuart Arms, oft saying "playing crib & drinking rum are the best things in life, & we do 'em together". One of his dearest possessions was his licence to employ Aborigines, whom he treated well; it was said that 'he had a way with black fellows'; of course, they provided many things necessary to his Station & expeditions: for white travellers, he was a guide, & helped many in distress. On the morning of August 9th 1960, in Alice Springs hospital, he told them to 'wind my watch, it'll tell when I die, this time', he died pm. It was strange that Bob left his maritime birth-rights at Albert Town & Wallaroo, in favour of the Centre, but he displayed there the same fortitude & leadership as his sea-faring family.

His father, grand-father, & great grand-father were named 'Robert'.

'Another Robert'

On that note, I end this very brief record of the BUCK family involvement in the early exploration & surveys of South Australia. A detailed list of my references is available.

Yours


Geoffrey N. Briggs.

May 1992.

My references include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| 3. Gt. Britain House of Commons Map | - 1836. |
| 4. Adelaide's 'Register' | - 1849/1872/1890. |
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| 6. 'Founder of A City' | - G. Dutton 1922-1960. |
| 7. Pioneer Association of S.A. | - Pamphlets 1962 etc. |
| 8. 'The Romance of Place Names, S.A.' | - G. Manning 1986. |
| 9. 'Atlas of S.A.' | - S.A. Jubilee '150' Board 1986. |
| 10. R.B. Sexton. | - 1989. |
| 11. S.A. Archives. | - 1980's. |
| 12. Sydney Mirror | - Apr.29 1931. |
| 13. Gregory's Guides & Maps | - c.1938. |
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| 15. Alex Jelinck's Index | - c.1980. |
| 16. Family Documents & Research | - G.N.B. 1983-92. |

I LIVE TO TELL THE TALE

In the last week of June, both Alex Munro and I were invited to attend the 77th Corps Birthday celebrations at Bonegilla.

Along with serving members, Ken Talbot-Smith, George Timmins, Stan Stevens and the 2IC of 4 Field Survey Squadron, Captain Neville Stone, we set off in two Army cars to our first destination, Fortuna Villa at Bendigo.

Arriving just in time for tea we dined at the Sergeants' Mess and retired to the bar a little later. It wasn't until the next morning that I re-met serving members. I haven't seen for 20 years. All seemed to remember me, the faces I knew, but some of the names slipped my memory. (old age?). Most were on their way to Bonegilla as we were that morning so I knew there would be good times ahead.

Everyone there seemed to know me, even the ones I had never met before. It seems that Mick Sarson (now a WO1) had been spreading rumours about me getting lost in Papua New Guinea. Actually it was all his fault, I had to get away from his corny jokes.

After a few drinks (4 or 5) it was time to get ready for the "Main Event" and what a time we had. Surrounded by old friends, we got VIP service during the evening and along with 120 others, had the company of the Major General, Second in Command of the Australian Defence Forces. Also present were a Brigadier, Colonels, Half Colonels along with every other rank from Sergeant upwards.

With dinner finishing at 11.30 p.m. (five wines and 3 ports later) we somehow made it back from the OR's Mess to the Sergeants' Mess (about 500 metres walk along the lake) and spent until 2.30 a.m. reminiscing over old times.

It seemed that I was a party pooper as most people didn't get to bed until 5.30 a.m.

We left for Adelaide the next morning (with a few headaches) with an extra passenger Bob Williams and arrived back about 6.30 p.m. A very good time was had by all, and I would highly recommend it to all ex-survey members. If you are interested in going next year, let Alex Munro know at the Anzac Day re-union. Total cost \$27 for the dinner and about the same for sundries.

JIM DUNN

THE LOCAL CELEBRATION OF THE 77TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS 1992

The occasion was celebrated with a formal dinner held in the Sergeants' Mess at Keswick Barracks on Friday, 3rd July and organised by 4 Field Survey Squadron. Ex-members who responded to invitations sent out were George and Marj Ricketts, Bob and Margaret Love from Strathalbyn, George and Eva Gruszka, John and Pam Harrison, Laurie and Pam Sutton, Alex and Joan Munro, Trevor and Barbara Hann, Peter and Dianne Davis and Bob and Ros Williams. Also attending were Stevo Hinic, Stan Stevens from Ordnance and from interstate were Jason Wells from Geelong, Brenton Whittenbury from Melbourne and the terrible twins Roger Reece and Neil Jones from the Map Depot at Bandiana. As I've heard nothing to the contrary, I hope all our interstate visitors had a pleasant and safe trip home. My apologies to anyone I might have missed.

WO1 George Timmins was the Dining President, and also had a hand in organising the cooks, who did a first class job in preparing and presenting the various courses, all complimented naturally enough by good South Australian wines. The Loyal Toast was proposed by Sgt. Grant Mc Guinness and the toast to Diana, Princess of Wales, as the Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps was proposed by Lt. Chamberlayne.

The toast to the Corps was proposed by WO2 Ken Talbot-Smith and the response was given by the squadron OC, Major Andrew McLeod.

S/Sgt John Zuringer was farewelled on the night, being discharged after twenty years and one day of service. As a finale to his career, Zing gave one of his usual humorous speeches, reminiscing on the highlights of his service life and raising considerable mirth all round. Best of luck for the future John.

The night was well and truly enjoyed by all who attended and finished in the early hours for the last hardy souls.

ALEX MUNRO

NEW ARRIVALS AND OUT-OF-TOWNERS

A short run-down of association members who have recently arrived in Adelaide or who spend most of their time out of Adelaide, and not seen all that often:-

DR. BOB

Bob Williams moved to Adelaide with his family last October after retiring from the service in Bendigo, to take up a position as a senior research scientist with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation at Salisbury.

He began his climb up the academic ladder when posted to Canberra as a Staff Sergeant in 1977, where he gained his Bachelor of Arts degree in computer studies at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, before being promoted to Lieutenant in 1979 and posted back to Bendigo.

Bob was promoted to Captain in 1983, and posted on long term schooling to the University of Wisconsin in the USA to undertake post graduate studies in automated cartography, finishing in 1985 with a Master of Science degree.

Back in Bendigo (again), promotion to Major came in 1988, when posted to the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, to study data structuring of geographical information for two years to gain a Doctorate in Philosophy.

Bob and his wife Ros and family have now settled into their new home at Salisbury East, less one son in his third year at the Defence Force Academy.

Best of luck in your new job and the future, Bob, and hope to see you at our annual re-union.

TREVOR HANN

It was good to see Trevor and Barbara at the Corps Birthday Dinner as Trevor is not sighted all that much now, as he doesn't get home on a regular basis because of his job. Trevor is a technical advisor with Laos Survey and Exploration Services Ltd., based at Vientiane near the border of Laos and Thailand. He is involved mainly with the logistics of mineral/oil exploration projects, rather than the surveying side of things.

He has been there about two years now, and has developed other business interests also. He reckons the quid available up there at the moment is much better than what is available at home, which is not difficult to imagine, given the state of the present recession. Previously, Trevor spent about 5 years working in Indonesia as a field operator on various exploration surveys.

IAN WARK

Ian was in the printing/advertising business for some time, until about two years ago, when he seemed to disappear, until he turned up out of the blue, so to speak, last Anzac Day. He told me he has bought a farm property near Robertstown, about 120 kilometres north of Adelaide and lives there with a fair degree of self sufficiency, only going into town as necessary to collect his mail from the post office and obtain those things he cannot produce on the farm. Stock includes cattle and sheep, pigs, poultry and he also cultivates a vegetable patch, which all sounds a bit like old Mc Donalds farm, but Ian certainly seemed enthusiastic about the place. Hope the property lives up to expectations Ian, and all the best in your venture.

PICNIC AT BROWNHILL CREEK

This event has been organised for Sunday 27th September, 1992, near the northern end of the Brown Hill Creek Caravan Park. The picnic area and tennis court have been hired from Noon to 5 p.m.

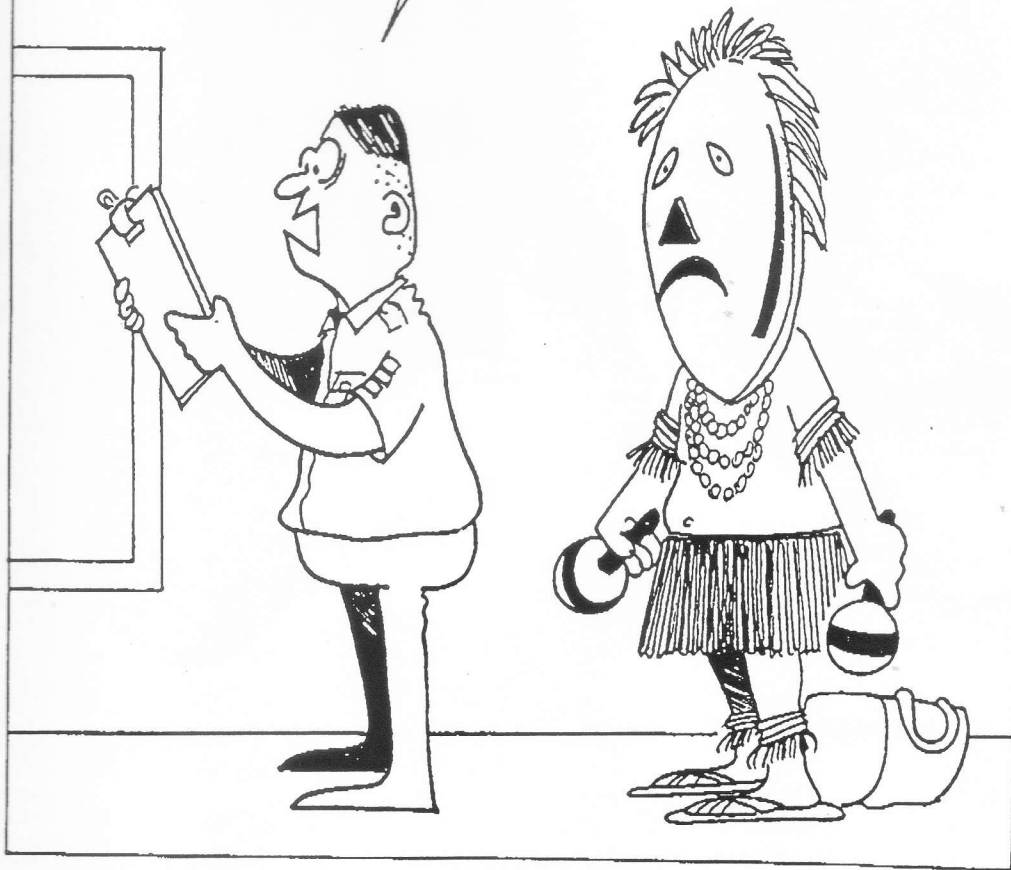
It is the same spot where we held a picnic a few years ago, which was well attended and a very pleasant time had by all, as I remember. There is plenty of shade, but no BBQ facilities on site.

'Phone around to see who is coming, and remember to bring a tennis racquet if you own one, but make sure you mark the date on your calendar.

SAILING THE PACIFIC

Heard recently from two sources that Cam Chapman and Sam Chambers have pooled resources and bought a yacht (or craft of some kind) and are presently heading towards the Solomon Islands. I understand they hope to start a fishing or charter business.

LOOK I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE JUST NOT ENLISTING ANY DIRECT ENTRY MEDICAL OFFICERS!



Courtesy of DIKKO