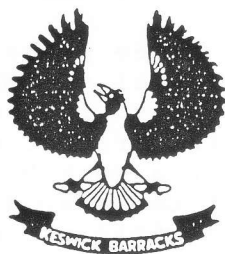


SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1992/93:

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



NEWSLETTER No 5
DECEMBER 1992

EDITORIAL

During the year, now almost at an end with Christmas approaching, our newsletters have provided stories and snippets of news which hopefully were of interest to all members. Our thanks to the efforts of those who volunteered (normally a no-no in the Army) articles and news items for our newsletter.

The quantity of material received was not as great as would have been liked, so make a New Year's resolution to provide something for the year ahead.

To all our members, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SICK LIST

GEORGE RICKETTS

George slipped on wet grass when he went to check his letter box for mail in late October. The slope from his front door to the street entrance is very steep, and with the unusually wet weather of late, he has had previous tumbles but not as bad as this one.

He broke his ankle in three places, requiring surgery in the Adelaide Hospital to set things right, which also meant a four day stay. The foot and ankle were immobilised with a plaster cast up to the knee, which will remain until about a week before Christmas before removal. George is not certain how long after that before he will have full use of his leg again, but probably not until early in the New Year. I know he is looking forward to playing bowls again and we all hope this will be in the very near future.

CLEM SARGENT

Not a local lad, but known to many, Clem has resided in Canberra for many years. He underwent prostate surgery about two months ago with everything going as his doctor planned, although it's something Clem does not recommend, according to my informant. We all hope for a speedy and full recovery, Clem.

WAYNE GILLIES

For anyone who has lost track of Wayne, he now lives in Tasmania in the Hobart suburb of Belleview overlooking the sea, as he has become something of a yachting fanatic.

His wife Leslie sent a letter to Geoff Briggs, informing that Wayne recently underwent surgery to remove a cancerous growth in the bowel. The operation was successful in that the growth was removed completely but requires follow up treatment of chemotherapy, so the final all clear is some time away.

The condition was discovered quite unexpectedly, when Wayne went into hospital on the day after his daughter's wedding in mid-November, to receive treatment for what he thought to be a blocked bowel. We hope everything goes well Wayne, and will keep in touch.

AN INVITATION TO SYDNEY

Received an invitation from John Maltby, secretary of the NSW Association, to attend their Christmas re-union and AGM on 11th November, at the Journalists Club in Chalmers St., Sydney. There were no takers from this end, John, but I hope your local members turned out in force.

Thank you for the invite, as you never know who might be visiting Sydney Town at the time.

VALE

FRED KITCH

Fred passed away in Auckland, NZ, last August, while travelling with his wife Ruth to Australia from Canada. Our thanks to the September issue of 'Magna Carto' for this information.

Fred was better known as Kitchy and served at Fortuna from around 1943 until the seventies, as the maintenance fitter in the printing room, and was also something of a character.

After leaving the Army, he met and married Ruth, a Canadian lass, and moved to Canada to live, returning to Australia periodically to visit family and friends.

KARL BRATZ

Karl passed away at the Coober Pedy Hospital early on 26th August this year. He was at the Mary Potter Hospice at North Adelaide, but when it became obvious that he only had days to live, he returned to Coober Pedy by 'plane accompanied by a nurse, to be amongst his many friends there until the last.

The trip took toll of his failing health, but he remained coherent for a good bit of his remaining time, although he was drugged continually. At the end he was still wearing his very casual T shirt and floppy bush hat, which had become something of a trade mark for Karl.

The weather had been wet and windy but turned sunny and fine for the afternoon of his funeral, when he was buried in his famous pre-made galvanised corrugated iron casket at the town cemetery known locally as Boot Hill.

Karl was highly regarded on the opal fields as a dedicated member of the community and a character-about-town, which was reflected in the large number of townspeople who attended the funeral, including a TV team to record the occasion. A newspaper report stated the cortege as being about 2 Kilometres long.

The planned headstone is to incorporate an 18 gallon keg inscribed with "Have a drink on me". In lieu of flowers or a card, an inscribed Survey Corps plaque was sent to the town on behalf of the Association, and is now hanging on the wall of the Italian Club, above the place where Karl used to relax on most days.

Because Karl had no family in Coober Pedy, his affairs and the funeral were organised by friends, and our thanks to them and Dawn Jones and her husband.

Karl will be long remembered by his many friends.



KARL'S FUNERAL SERVICE - FATHER PAUL BURKE OFFICIATING

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM CANBERRA

George Ricketts received a Christmas card from the Director of Survey - Colonel Simon Lemon - wishing Association members a Merry Christmas.

AUSTRALIA ON PAPER BY JOHN D. LINES

This should be of interest to many members, and is a hardcover publication of 344 pages covering the story of Australian mapping from pre-Federation days until now. It might be available from local bookshops, but if not can be purchased from 'Fortune Publications, PO Box 1220, Box Hill, Victoria 3128' for \$33.00 plus packing and postage of \$7.00.

SURVEY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 4 Field Survey Squadron Christmas party was held this year at the South Adelaide Football Club on Friday 11th December, 1992.

The party consisted of both serving and non serving survey people and their partners totalling nearly 100. We had the whole dining room to ourselves and our entertainment was a "Karaoke" band in which a lot of would be singers entertained us throughout the night.

A giant raffle was run throughout the proceedings of about 60 prizes valued at \$6,500. These included a night for 2 at the "Hyatt", a wheelbarrow full of goodies, a fish tank and fish, a trip to Kangaroo Island and lots more.

We would like to see a few more of the ex-survey "oldies" at this function, so write it in your diary for next year. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, and congratulations to the organizers.

THE LONG TRIP TO CANBERRA

The Vietnam Forces National Memorial dedication service and parade held on Saturday, 3rd October, 1992 was attended by Stan Stevens, Pat Cox and myself. Stan was lucky enough to score a ride in a friend's car, but Pat and I travelled by bus. An Army bus was made available by the Department of Defence for serving members of all three Services who wished to travel to Canberra for the occasion, with the proviso that unused seats were made available to former servicemen. Pat and I placed our names on the 'stand-by' list of those interested, and were lucky enough to be accepted.

I was a bit dubious about going by service bus, with memories of thinly padded vinyl covered upright seats, but as the old saying goes, never look a gift horse in the mouth, so was prepared for the worst. Didn't have to worry though, as a brand new bus was provided similar to those used by the interstate people carriers, and just as roomy and comfortable. Departure time was on Thursday, 1st October at 6 a.m., from the Parade Ground at Keswick Barracks, which meant a 4.30 a.m. rise I could have done without, to make the roll call at 5.45 a.m.

As would be expected those on board were a mixed lot, ranging in occupation from police officers, public servants and tradesmen to retirees and pensioners, plus a well proportioned see-ing eye dog called Aztec and a number of servicemen. Reading and swapping magazines and newspapers was the main entertainment with a good deal of humour provided by the more garrulous passengers. Wayside stops were regular, so there was no chance of getting a numb backside, and later in the morning cold stubbies and soft drinks were available for sale and very welcome too.

Our overnight stop was at the Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, just outside Wagga Wagga, as most of you will remember. It was about 36 years since Pat and I had been there, and the place had completely changed in that time. Gone were the old corrugated iron huts clustered in a fairly small area, and replaced by double story brick buildings separated by open landscaped areas and connected by kerbed and bitumised roads.

We were accommodated in an empty barracks block, where we found the beds had been made up by the recruits earlier in the day - not expected but a nice surprise after a long day. The food provided was top quality with multiple choices, a long way from what I remember of one choice per meal, with the quality and quantity depending on how far back in the mess line you were, still, no-one ever starved.

Arrival in Canberra was at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, just before mid-day. Pat and I left our gear at the Sergeants' Mess before departing for a quick tour of the town and the War Memorial. Back at the Mess later, where Stan was waiting for us, we tried for three quarters of an hour without success to get a cab to take us to Alex Laing's house, and finally had to resort to an SOS call and have Dawn Laing pick us up.

We stayed at the Laing ranch over the week-end with Ken Slater from Bendigo, and much later in the night another guest was added in the shape of Lloyd Patterson who was to have been billeted elsewhere, had he arrived earlier. By the time we went to bed it was only three and a half hours to the start of the Dawn Service on Saturday morning, so very wisely all decided to miss that event.

It really was worth the effort going to Canberra, in meeting again with so many friends, marching in the parade, the get-together afterwards, the Sunday concert, all contributing to a great week-end. As all the events are well covered by Alex Laing's article, I'll say no more, except that I was touched by the enthusiasm of the very large crowd lining the parade route, when applauding those marching.

Our thanks to the Canberra Association for organising everything, and in particular to the efforts of Dawn Laing. Early on Monday morning we were driven to Duntroon by Alex and Dawn Laing for the return bus trip to Adelaide. I wasn't looking forward to an estimated sixteen hour direct trip home, but it went very well, allowing every-one to relax after a hectic week-end, and considering everything, the bus crowd was pretty chirpy.

There were plenty of refreshment stops at road houses along the way, including a short break at a small and lonely pub somewhere in NSW, where I reckon the publican must have been delighted with the stubbie sales to over fifty characters. Arrival time back at Keswick Barracks was about 10 p.m. The bus trip had been organised by the OC and staff of the local District Support Unit, and I think all who went would want to congratulate them on a job well done.

ALEX MUNRO

PS. Message to Robin Wilson

Percy Long was at the re-union and asked me to pass on his regards to you.

NEW PRESIDENT IN W.A.

Ray Sargeant is now the president of the W.A. Association, replacing Don Taylor who is still in harness as a committee member. Congratulations Ray, I reckon you will do a great job.

ALAN TOOGOOD IN CIVVY STREET

Now out of the Army and working in the Perth Law Courts, but no-one seems to know just what work he is doing.

COLIN YANDELL

Colin somehow managed to prolong his posting to Perth to a lengthy 13 years, but is now out of the service and works for the W.A. Central Mapping agency.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS

Corps Shop Order Form

ITEMS	Cost
Wall Plaques - RASVY	26.00
- SMS	26.00
Desk Set - 2 Badge	27.00
Beer/Coffee Mug	4.50
Carafe	4.50
Port & Wine Glass	4.00
Port Crock - RASVY 75th	25.00
- NUI DAT SOUTH VIETNAM	20.00
Stubby Holders - RASVY () ASC()	5.00
Key Rings	5.00
Woven Cloth Badges	4.00
Car Window Sticker	1.50
3 Badge Iron-on	2.00
Corps T-Shirt collared (Size:)	20.00
Corps Windcheater (Size:)	28.00
Corps Cap	7.00
Cuff Links	8.00
Tie Bar	4.00
Corps Tie	17.50
Rule Sight - Alidade	40.00
Envelope - First Day Cover	1.50

CORPS SOUVENIRS

I received a letter from Sgt Mike Bodman, who manages the RA Svy Corps Museum at Bonegilla, enclosing a list of products available for sale, to raise money towards the costs of operating the Museum. Mike would be delighted to sell you anything from the range of souvenirs and can be contacted on telephone(060) 554 302 or fax (060) 561 162.

His full address is:- RA Svy Corps Association
Milpo Bonegilla
VICTORIA 3693

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the RA Svy Corps Association.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BENDIGO (MAGNA CARTO) NEWSLETTER

Daryl and Heather Hockings now reside somewhere in Melbourne. Daryl is the Admin. Officer at Broadmeadows Logistic Battalion.

Ace Evans sends his regards to Frank and Naomi Bryant.

Bruce Cockburn is now living the good life, touring Queensland and alternating between fishing and visiting old friends.

Bill Black(Blackie) still lives at Burwood in Victoria and is still involved with geodetic and topo surveys for VIC Lands.

Des Moore now lives in Cooktown. He told the story of the time that Wally Mooney swapped scrawny spatch-cocks for some plump birds destined for the Sergeants' Mess table at Fortuna. Please Wally, tell us it's not true.

Tom Royle is now the Post Master at Macedon in Victoria, and also the local newsagent. He is still the secretary of the Ex-Fortuna Association, until the very unlikely situation arises when a volunteer is brash enough to take the job.

Dan Mc Lusky now lives in Mackay and runs a training and consultancy business. He also mentioned running into Butch Winterflood.

Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword recently returned home to Queensland after four months stint in Lae, PNG, working with the Anglican Board of Missions.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL WEEKEND

The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial was dedicated at a ceremony at the newly erected memorial on Saturday 4th October, 1992. Although the dedication and subsequent March past was the focus, there were a number of other events which preceded and followed it which made for a most enjoyable, very long weekend.

As usual the Corps started late! By late 1991 all accommodation in Canberra had already been booked for the long weekend in October so at our ANZAC Day meeting we decided the members of Canberra RA Survey Association would billet all RA Svy Vietnam Veterans wishing to come to Canberra for that weekend. All state Survey Associations were advised of this and we sat back and waited for the acceptances to roll in.

It was not the flood we expected, and hoped for, but nonetheless there were enough who did answer the call to justify the efforts the local members had made to arrange a hopefully, enjoyable and certainly full weekend.

The proceedings started Friday night when all visitors assembled at Alex & Dawn Laing's home where they were met by their hosts and taken home for dinner. That was the theory. In practice everybody wanted to see Lloyd Patterson who travelled up from Wodonga with Ross McMillan and arrived about 9 p.m. by which time everybody was a little chirpy and a little late for dinner.

The morning of the March dawned bright and clear. Not so many members of the RA Svy contingent! Being a little "tired" from the night before most decided to forego the Dawn service at the Australian War Memorial saving their energies for the arduous March at the Dedication Ceremony.

Members began assembling on Reid Oval, adjacent to Anzac Parade, and near to the Memorial, about 8 a.m. With some 50,000 other Veterans also assembled there, it was a time for wandering around and renewing friendships. There were a number of veterans there who will be well known to Corps members although they did not march with us. Those seen by the author included Brig David Rossi(MO Gading 4), John Spencer(Captain Money Gading 5) Ike Lever(AATTV), Bob Wood(Ex 5 Sqn), Tony Dipede(8 Sqn, 2 Sqn), Brian Partridge, John Lamby, Kevin Quinell and Peter Sadler.

When the time came to form up we found we had a contingent of 15 including Stan Stevens, Lloyd Patterson, Pat Cox, Jim McDonald, Ken Slater, Alex Laing, Graham Baker, Paul Faithful, Alex Munro, Ross McMillan, John Bullen, Percy Long, Charlie Watson, Rocky Camps and John McCulloch. As we marched out of Reid Park the band struck up the Corps March and again as we approached the Memorial for the 'eyes right' "Wandering the Kings Highway" greeted us. It added just that little bit extra to the step of the group.

Following the March everybody returned to the Laing's for a buffet lunch. We were joined by the Director Colonel Simon Lemon and his wife Elaine, Clem and Margaret Sargent, Chris and Beryl Parkinson, Geraldine McCulloch, Marie McMillan and Ike Lever.

Sunday the day of the Concert was a "disaster" but only weatherwise. About 11 a.m. it began raining and didn't stop all day. This however did not deter a dedicated band who thought they would see Lorrae Desmond, Denise Drysdale and Patty McGrath one more time. These and many other former Vietnam Concert Party entertainers defied the rain to put on a great show. Fortified by many tinnies and sheltered by plastic garbage bags thousands of veterans sang "Leaving on a Jet Plane" for the umpteenth time and went home wet, weary and well satisfied with a great afternoon of entertainment and nostalgia.

Monday, a public holiday in the ACT, saw the majority of our guests leave by bus, car, plane and train vowing we should do it **again some time**. Normie Rowe suggested Perth and I think that's a great idea. Count me in!

ALEX LAING



L to R: STAN STEVENS, LLOYD PATTERSON, PAT COX, JIM Mc DONALD,
KEN SLATER, ALEX LAING, GRAHAM BAKER, PAUL FAITHFUL
ALEX MUNRO, ROSS McMILLAN, JOHN BULLEN, PERCY LONG,
CHARLIE WATSON.

KNEELING: ROCKY CAMPS, JOHN McCULLOCH

1st AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE ON MAPPING & CHARTING

The Conference, hosted by the South Australian Division of the Australian Institute of Cartographers, was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre over the period 14th-17th September, 1992.

The theme for the Conference was, '*Mapping for a Green Future*', and those fortunate to be able to attend were treated to a wide variety of Technical Papers on all aspects of cartography from the ecological management of the natural environment, to the current state of development in LIS, and GIS applications for resource development.

Coupled with the 'Conference was a comprehensive equipment, and product exhibition put together by Tony Stephens, - (well done Tony!!). There were the usual State and Federal Government Department and Statutory Authority exhibits with topographic and thematic mapping products, to the latest in GPS receivers and computer-based mapping hardware.

The weather for the duration of the Conference was far from seasonal, and in a word, miserable and apologies for this far from ordinary South Australian, (Adelaide), weather were alluded to by both the Conference Convenor, Grant Cullen, and the Minister of Lands, Environment & Planning, and Water Resources Ms Susan Lenehan, who opened the Conference.

The Keynote Address was delivered by David Rhind, the current Director-General of Ordnance Survey International, UK, whose address on the situation in the UK on 'user pays' mapping products, and forecasts for the future must have left just as many Delegates wondering about their future, as others who saw a familiar scenario to Australia. Less money, - more services, and the need to 'trim the fat!'

Old Royal Australian Survey Corps identities seemed, (for ever!), to appear from amongst the crowd, and John Hillier took the initiative and arranged a Reunion Luncheon at the Keswick Barracks Officer's Mess during the week. About a dozen or so Ex-RA Svy members attended and the planned brief luncheon embraced more than the allocated time, and covered more than a few decades of the 'old times' of the 'Corps. There were at least a dozen Conference Delegates with after-lunch dozes that afternoon!

Well done AIC, and to those Ex-RA Svy members who were so prominent in getting this 1st Australian Conference on Mapping and Charting off the ground, - congratulations!!. If this inaugural 'Conference is any guide to the future the next one is an event not to be missed!

John D A Harrison

A CENTURY AND NOT OUT

On 26th November this year, Jack Cullen turned 100 years of age, and in honour of the occasion, he received congratulations from all over Australia and overseas, including those sent on behalf of our Association. A pretty good innings you must admit.

One of Jacks' daughters-Mrs. Rosemary Morris-recently wrote to George Ricketts to say that her dad had a lovely afternoon at Fortuna on the special day, and on the following Sunday received about 80 callers at an open day held at his Bendigo home. She also mentioned that John Hillier, Don MacDonald, Frank Buckland and Harry Raisbeck visited Jack for the occasion.

The birthday celebrations held at Fortuna were reported in the Bendigo Advertiser with the following article:-

"There was only one candle on former surveyor John Cullen's birthday cake yesterday-one candle representing one magnificent century.

Mr. Cullen, born in Ireland on November 26th, 1892, was saluted by family and Army Survey Regiment members at Fortuna yesterday.

He stood to receive their greetings, which also came from further afield:-from Minister for Defence, Robert Ray, Army chiefs and from Buckingham Palace.

Corps patron Colonel Commandant Swiney read a copy of a telegram from the Princess of Wales, a message Mr. Cullen said it was an honour to receive.

"It was also an honour to have all these people here for my birthday" he said.

Mr. Cullen also looked over an old plane table, a piece of equipment he used as a topographic surveyor early in his Army service to help produce military maps of Australia.

Mr. Cullen served overseas in World War 1 and was a member of the Survey Corps from October, 1920, until his retirement as a Captain in August, 1952.

In the latter years he was stationed in Bendigo, where he has continued to live and is still an honoured guest at Fortuna functions.

"I still live in my own house", he said, his voice still carrying a soft Irish lilt.

"You never lose an accent, even after all these years", he laughed.

He is also one up on many people four generations his junior-he still reads and writes without glasses.

Mr. Cullen's two daughters, Mrs. Rosemary Morris of Bendigo and Mrs. Betty Bengough, of Melbourne, were on hand to help with the celebrations."

WHERE WAS EVERYBODY

The tennis picnic held on Sunday 27th September was not well attended at all, although I believe it did clash with another function and there were some apologies, so I guess it was just one of those days. Pity though, as the location was a picture and the weather absolutely perfect.





Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

