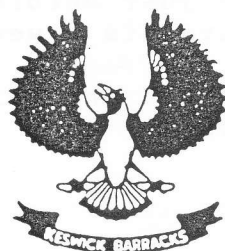


# SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1992/1993

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



NEWSLETTER No. 7  
JULY 1993

VALE

For those who have not heard, Alice Wood died recently in Perth.

Wife to Corps identity, Pat Wood, she was better known by her nickname of Pom, and her passing will be remembered with sadness by the many who got to know her in the various postings of Pat's service career.

Our condolences to Pat and family.

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER AT KESWICK, 1st JULY, 1993

Quite a few have wondered why no invitations have been sent out for the dinner, normally held in the Sergeant's Mess. 4 Field Survey did not organise any celebration because of field operations and other activities, but hope to hold a function of some sort when things settle down a bit, perhaps about October.

NEW RSL CHIEF

George Ricketts attended the RSL briefing last April, to get details for the Anzac Day March, given by an organiser who turned out to be Peter Bates-Brownsword's brother - Bill. Small world. Peter's brother, Bill, is to be the next State president of the RSL in South Australia. For those who might not know, Peter now lives in Queensland.

B-B-Q PLANNED

Members of the old Central Command Field Survey section have indicated that another get-together is in order for later in the year.

A notice will be circulated when the weather becomes warmer.

## ANZAC DAY MARCH

I'm glad to report the day was sunny and mild, unlike the damp and blustery conditions of some years. About half those marching in the Survey group met at Keswick Barracks at 9 am as usual to be driven into the city by Spr Gordon Santo, our regular driver of past years.

A canvas covered one-tonner was used, courtesy of 4 Field Survey Squadron, also marching in the parade.

The others were waiting at the form-up point in Victoria Square, a total muster of sixteen, which was fairly good for us, but a few more next year would be better.

Spr. Angelo Pantelidis had volunteered to be our Banner Bearer for the day, and did a first class job.

George Ricketts led the push, giving the "eyes right" passing the South African War Memorial and again at the reviewing base by Torrens Parade ground, where the Governor, Dame Roma Mitchell took the salute.

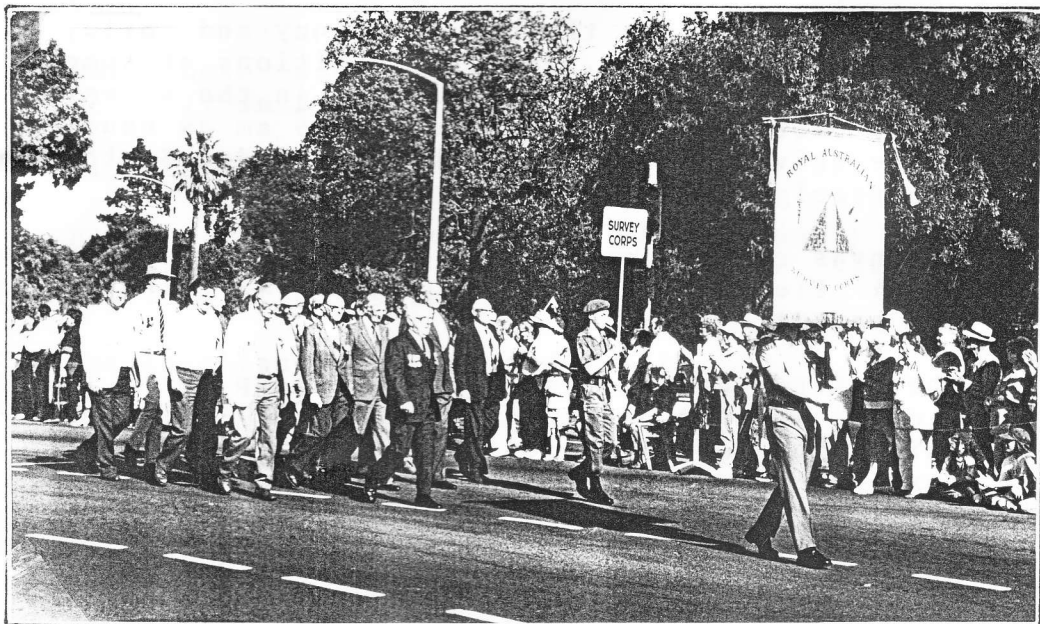
An estimated number of about 7000 marched in perfect weather. Bernie Watson's daughter was on hand near the finish to get a couple of colour photos of our group, so if anyone would like a print, let me know and I will arrange to borrow the negatives from Bernie.

After the march, everyone gathered for a chinwag before Gordon ran a shuttle service back to the Barracks for those returning for lunch.

ALEX MUNRO.

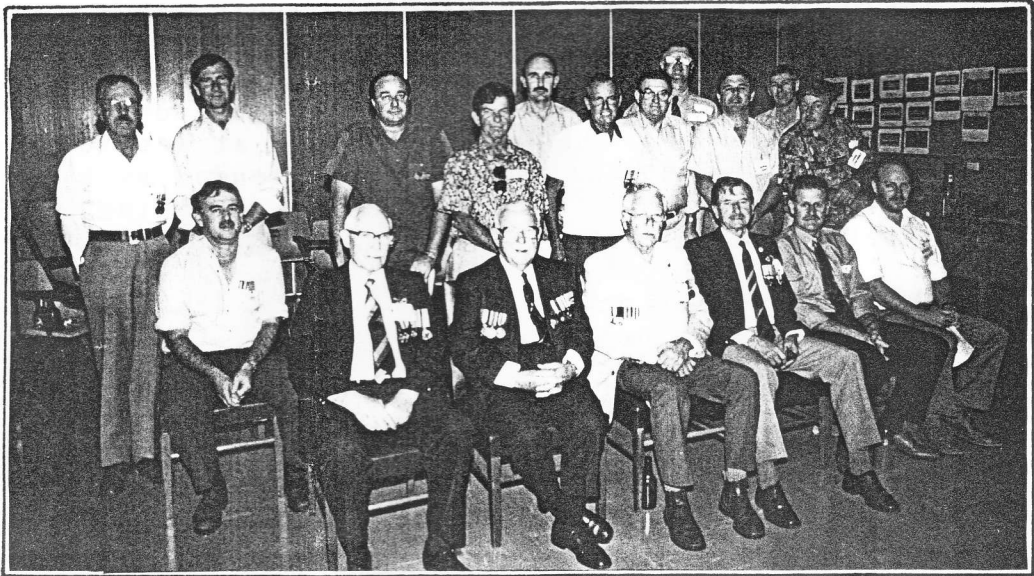
# ANZAC DAY MARCH

Monday 26th April, 1993



## AFTER THE MARCH

L to R: Bob Love, Alan Adsett, Peter Davis, George Campbell-Kennedy, Spr Angelo Pantelidis, Dave Collins, George Ricketts, John Harrison, Pat Cox, Frank McMillan, Noel Sproles, Stan Stevens, Alex Munro, John Wicker, Bernie Watson, Dave Pounsett.



### ANZAC DAY A.G.M. 1993

**BACK ROW:** Geoff Briggs, Mick Dempster, Ken Jeffery,  
Bob Griffin, Stevo Hinic, Pat Cox, Harry Dunn, John  
Harrison, Jim Nathan, Jim Dunn, John Scharber,

**FRONT ROW:** Peter Davis, Bernie Watson, George  
Ricketts, Bob Love, Alex Munro, John Wicker, Alan Adsett.  
**NOT IN PHOTO - Stan Stevens and Bob Williams**

### THE PILBARA WANDERERS

Ray Sargeant and Barry Parker left Perth a few days back for a two week holiday in the Pilbara region of W.A., visiting places known from field trips in bygone days.

Ray has acquired a four-wheel drive vehicle for the trip, as well as a metal detector to test out all the gold sites he has read about. Good luck boys.

P.S. If you strike it rich Ray, don't forget your old mates over here.

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (OAM)

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, published in the Advertiser on the holiday, it was announced that Lt. Col J. Gruszka was awarded the OAM for services to the Polish community.

Congratulations from everyone George and well done.

78th CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

Held at the School of Military Survey, Bonegilla, Friday 2nd July, 1993

The dinner this year was well attended, with about 120 gathering from far and wide, the biggest group coming from Bendigo naturally enough.

Most were accommodated in the student quarters, using a mixture of beds and stretchers, a bit cramped but comfortable and adequate. Also attending were about a dozen former members from 2/1 Coy., up from Melbourne.

Also from memory, I saw Brig. Mc Donald, Alex Laing, Clem Sargent, Mick Wagland(now Signal Corps) Rene van Den Tol, Barry Lutwyche, Gordon Lowrie, Ken Slater, Ike Lever, Bob McHenry, Jack Gore, Roger Rees, and Padre Garry Kenney just to mention some.

The dinner was of four courses and excellent. Near the end, after the usual speeches and toasts, the now traditional attempt to sing the Corps song-"Wandering the King's Highway" was made. This was rendered with some gusto but very little melody, and I'm sure it was the wine that made half the crowd completely tone deaf. As someone said, it would be much easier to recite the song.

Back in the Sergeants' Mess later for cheese and greens, etc, the night carried on until the small hours.

The Adelaide group included Bob Williams, Andy Capp, Pat Drover, Stevo Hinic, Ken Talbot-Smith, Jeff Le Fevre and yours truly.

We left on Thursday morning arriving in time for a late meal at the roadhouse near the school turnoff at Bonegilla. This left Friday clear for sight-seeing around Albury and visiting the school, including a get together for drinks later in the afternoon. We returned to Adelaide on Saturday a bit the worse for wear, arriving at Keswick just after 7 p.m., a long trip but worth it.

Congratulations to the CO and staff of the SMS for a first class job in organising the whole show.

ALEX MUNRO

PS.. I heard on the grapevine that someone was left behind at Bonegilla, when the Bendigo bus returned on Saturday.

It appears he returned to quarters in the early hours after the dinner and went to bed in the wrong room, failing to wake up next morning.

Those on the bus at departure time were unable to find him so left without him, but taking his gear with them. Two questions sprang to mind - how did he get back to Bendigo and what was he wearing?

35th AUSTRALIAN SURVEYORS CONGRESS  
DARWIN - 15th/22nd MAY, 1993

Talk about killing the willing horse!, - aren't there any other Ex-RA Svy members willing to contribute to this worthy publication?? Well the Editorial Sub-Committee is very persuasive!, and I'm a pushover for the sweet-talk, so here goes.

The Darwin Survey Congress, - sounds so much better than the mouthful at the top of the page, went off rather well!

Both Pamela and myself ambled off from Adelaide in our Discovery/TrakShak combination, about a fortnight prior, and dawdled along the Borefield Road, the Oodnadatta Track, Lassiter Highway, (an overstatement if ever there was one!), and the bits in between there along Stuart Highway, to Darwin.

Our first night out was spent with Di and Harry Dunn at Tarlee, (can't overdo it!!). We spent a pleasant evening catching up with old times, and the overnight rates very reasonable!

From Tarlee we headed off to Roxby where we stayed a couple of days and toured the Olympic Dam Mine, under the guidance of the new Chief Surveyor. All very interesting especially the wipe-out underground where we were run 'off the road' by some great machine coming out of the dark. What made it worse was that he, (??), didn't even stop!

Travelling up the Borefield Road to William Creek was interesting, and well worth the visit, (be it very brief), was the detour into Lake Eyre South, the various mound springs, (The Bubbler, etc), and the various abandoned 'Ghan Railway sidings, with accompanying artesian bores for a refreshing skinny-dip, and coffee break.

For the uninitiated there is much to see along the road, and the revisit to some old campsites occupied during my career in the South Australian Mines Department along the road, and even to see many of my survey stations still standing was an inspiration.

William Creek Hotel is managed by an Ex-Army WO who has forsaken his native Tasmania for the outback. We got on very well considering he was in the 'real' Army. Cost for the privilege of camping in the dust out the back of the Hotel was only \$8, but the hot shower made it well worthwhile.

Next day, (early), we headed off north to Oodnadatta for the traditional OODNABURGER, - a culinary delight about the size of a dinner plate with pound, (whatever that is in furlongs!), or two of minced kangaroo inside, - lovely if you can get a mouthful before the flies!

The road north to Marla deteriorates after the Oodna', and road signs are confusing as the Department of Road Transport have rehashed the km posts to fit in with the new Stuart Highway. This means that each km post is about four to five km apart for the last hundred or so kms, - all very confusing!

Marla, (nowhere near the Marla Bore!), is a refreshing place to stop, but try not to refuel at about a dollar a litre!. Landed camping areas, swimming pool, the lot! It was at Marla that we discovered the only fault we had with the Discovery and trailer on the whole trip, - a flat tyre, - damn!! Still with interchangeable tyres all round we pushed on!

The road from the Stuart Highway turn-off to The Rock is really good and passes Mount Connor which is truly spectacular, - probably more so than Ayres Rock, but that's our opinion!

That evening saw us at Yuluru where we were crammed into the Yuluru Camping Ground alongside another thousand or so rubber-neckers. Set up camp, and headed out with a different thousand or so to watch the sunset over Ayres Rock. Cloud cover damped the effort somewhat but at least, "been there, done that"

Back at the campground it was an early night as we planned to catch sunrise at The Rock, climb to the top, tour, (on foot), The Olgas, and be ready for an early get-away the following day for King's Canyon. Needn't have worried as sleep in a campground, (with our thousand neighbours), was something that eluded, (us both), all night.

Full day the following catching the sunrise, (cloud again!), climbing the rock, (bloody cold!) , walking the path around the bottom of The Rock, touring The Olgas, and with a cuppa watching sunset over The Olgas before heading back to camp. A quick tour of the Yuluru Village prepared us for an early night. Slept like a log! Perhaps the other thousand were especially quiet!

Early the next day, and after the inevitable souvenir shopping we headed back East, and then North to Kings Canyon Resort. The unsealed section of these so-called highways are just like the Stuart Highway of old, and I have admiration for those game enough to venture onto them with caravan/s in tow!

The Western part of the Lassiter Highway is sealed, (it's in a national park), which is very pleasant after the other part. Late in the afternoon we arrived at the 'Resort, a beautifully lawned, and manicured park in the middle of nowhere, - it's amazing just what money, and water can do in this neck o' the woods!

Set up camp and sat on the lawn, glass of wine in hand watching the sunset over the King's Canyon Ranges. Why anyone would continue working is beyond me! We would've liked to stay a few extra days but with a date to keep in Darwin it was not to be.

We had heard a lot about the 'killer' climb at King's Canyon so broke camp and headed out early in the morning for the climb. After The Rock, and The Olgas the day before it was relatively easy, and with plenty of time had a leisurely stroll around the 'Canyon park. This was about the best part of the trip to date with spectacular geology, wonderful palms, secluded water-holes, and not too many tourists.

On the way back to the Stuart Highway, (and after the dreaded Lassiter Highway), we toured the Henbury Meteorite Craters before getting 'back on the bitumen', arriving in The Alice late in the afternoon.

The MacDonnell Ranges Caravan Park is, (as most are now in The Alice), really superb. Most sites are grassed, there are three swimming pools, clean washrooms, all making our stay really pleasant. That evening the big splurge!, - a night out at Chateau Hornsby, - a vineyard a few km out of town where the legendary Ted Egan performs several times a week. The dinner/show package is well worth it, and an enjoyable evening followed.

The following couple of days saw us touring The Alice region, but more about this part of the trip in the next Newsletter.

Regards,

John and Pamela Harrison

PS A little more notice next time please Jim! Ta

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

For those who have contacts with AUSLIG(Australian Survey Office), another 8 technical staff have been ear-marked to take redundancy packages.

They will have between one and three years to either be re-trained or find another job, with the department assisting with time off and some expenses paid.

This leaves total staff within the Adelaide office down to about 12, and only 5 of them being technical people. This includes both survey technicians and draftsmen.

Good luck for the future to those involved.

## THE PIGEON RACE

While listening to the radio on a Saturday afternoon about a month ago, taking in the various sporting results being broadcast, the announcer indicated that he would have someone give the progress of a major pigeon race being flown that day.

The voice was unmistakeable, none other than Robin Wilson, coming through loud and clear direct from his pigeon loft.

For the next 10 minutes, Robin gave a very interesting run-down of the race, with a couple of bursts of excitement when his own birds came in. I didn't follow up to see if one of his birds won the race.

PS: Robin, Percy Long's address is

Salisbury QLD 4107