

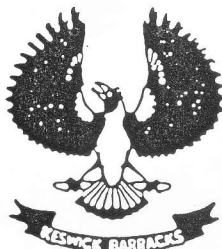
# SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1992/1993

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



→ Rocky Ryan  
→ Gruska



NEWSLETTER No. 8  
DECEMBER 1993

## EDITORIAL

It has been very sad to hear about the passing of some of our friends and former colleagues. The members of the Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families involved.

We also send our best wishes to the people on our sick list and wish them well.

With Christmas just around the corner, and Christmas being a time of family get-togethers, holidays and giving, we look forward to a brighter future.

Our Association president and Committee wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JIM DUNN.



## THE END OF AN ERA

Sad as it is, 4th Field Survey Squadron at Keswick Barracks will close next year or very early in 1995 at the latest.

The timings will depend to some extent on the availability of funds to administer the move.

Given the present circumstances, it would seem there is no longer the need for each military district to have its own survey troops, as 2 Squadron in Sydney closed about four years ago and 5 Squadron in Perth about two years ago.

I suppose its not unexpected that with the rapid advance in technology making available surveying equipment capable of fixing very accurate co-ordinates in a matter of minutes and coupled with helicopter movement, that the role of the field surveyor would diminish considerably.

Remember back to the days of large numbers of field surveyors working over huge areas for months at a time, whereas now a small number of surveyors could cover the same area in a fraction of the time.

Close to twenty years ago, I remember Jim Stedman describing the future role of the field surveyor as "dead as a dodo".

As more information comes to hand, there will be further reports.

ALEX MUNRO.

VALE

GEOFF BRIGGS

It is with considerable sadness that we report the death of Geoff Briggs. Geoff died in the Royal Adelaide Hospital on Wednesday, 1st December, 1993 after about 10 days in the intensive care unit, following a freak accident while reversing a vehicle on a property near Port Germein. He was taken at first to the Port Pirie hospital, but was transferred to Adelaide by air ambulance soon after. Geoff held his own for the first few days, but eventually the extent of his injuries proved too much.

The funeral was held at Centennial Park cemetery, where the chapel was filled to capacity with family, relatives and friends. There was a good roll-up of former and present members of 4th Field Survey Squadron plus Roger Rees from Wodonga representing the School and Map Depot and Bill Griggs from Bendigo representing the Survey Regiment.

The President and members of the Association extend their deepest sympathy to Moyna and family.

PAT STRUNKS

Again with sadness, we report the death of Pat Strunks. Pat died in Canberra of cancer, about two months ago, only a few weeks after returning from the Middle East where he was working with a civilian relief agency. There is no other information to hand at this time, but I understand his death was unexpected in that the seriousness of his condition was not known until a few weeks before his death. Those who knew Pat would wish their condolences be extended to his wife and family.

## NOT REPORTED

For those who might not have heard, I wish to report the deaths earlier this year of Barbara, wife of Lindsay Brandon, and Helen, wife of George Campbell-Kennedy. This was not reported before, as it was considered to be a private and personal matter on each occasion, but I know the thoughts of many were with Lindsay and George at the time.

## DINNER AT LUPI'S RESTAURANT

Never found out who Lupi was, but the mixed dinner held there last July was not reported in our last issue. This was an oversight at the time. A small group of fourteen attended, and as I cannot remember all who went, I'll not mention names. Unfortunately, there were six cancellations on the day due to sudden problems on the home front, a bit unusual but it didn't dampen the occasion.

The food was pretty spicy, or at least mine was, a Malayan dish as I remember, but I enjoyed it.

Entertainment was provided by a cheery little chap who stood about 5 ft. tall in his socks and almost as wide, and it didn't need a Rhode Scholar to tell that he was at one time a citizen of Asia. He had a smooth voice, easy to listen to, and sang during the evening.

It was a pleasant and relaxed occasion, and I'm sure it was enjoyed by all.

As a matter of interest, Lupi's closed down a few weeks later, perhaps we gave the place a bad reputation, but re-opened shortly after as "Shades" under new management or the old management in disguise. But to no avail though, as it too has since shut down.

Someone mentioned we try a Greek restaurant next time, which sounds good to me. Any other suggestions?

ALEX MUNRO

## SICK LIST

### FRANK BRYANT

Frank recently had his right knee re-constructed. The operation went well, and so far he is very pleased with progress, although he will remain on crutches for a long time yet. The re-construction of his left knee, which was reported in previous editions last year, has proved successful, so we all hope the right knee will mend just as well, particularly since this is the eighth operation Frank has had since retirement.

### HARRY DUNN

Harry underwent surgery on his knee in early December. He has had to use two walking sticks much of the time to get around, for some time now, but if all goes well, he hopes to throw away at least one stick. We all hope so Harry and very soon.

### BILL LOVE

Now convalescing after heart surgery. Bill suffered a heart attack at the hotel he was staying at in Wagga Wagga, after attending the opening ceremony of the new chapel at Kapooka on the previous day, Saturday 3rd October. He spent the next day or two in the local hospital, before being flown back to Adelaide by air ambulance for an operation. The operation was successful, and although a bit sore and sorry for a few days after, Bill has recovered well and hopefully will be back to full health before too long.

GEORGE GRUSZKA

George is suffering from leukaemia and is presently in the Royal Adelaide Hospital having chemotherapy treatment. Medical opinion is that he should respond well, but has to remain in hospital under treatment until late December or early January. He is in ward 6D and can receive visitors.

All the best George, and you can be sure everyone is hoping to hear good news soon.

PETER PUCZKOWSKI

Peter is still living as full a life as he can, following extensive surgery for cancer about two years ago. He is visiting Adelaide at the moment to push the sale of his hotel at Exeter, and will stay only as long as necessary, before returning to Maroochydore in Queensland.

Peter has been living in Queensland with his family for several months now, as the climate seems to suit his condition. Best of luck in the new year Peter.

#### SICK LIST - FOLLOW UP

MARJ KNIGHT

Marj is feeling pretty fit at the moment, and has had no sign of cancer since her operation, reported early last year, but still requires a pathology test every 6 months or so, although she feels confident that this will extend to a yearly test.

BERNIE WATSON

Bernie has recovered completely from the triple by-pass heart operation, as reported in our last edition. He still suffers some pain at odd times in the leg where the replacement artery was removed from, but this is becoming less and should go altogether in the next few months. He must have mended pretty well, as he has been to Perth since his operation for a national conference on "Aged Care", an Australian wide organization Bernie is active in.

## CHRISTMAS FUNCTION '93

The 4 Squadron Christmas function was again held at South Adelaide Football Club. In response to invitations sent out by the Unit, the following former members and wives attended - Marj and George Ricketts, Pam and Bob Griffin, Roz and Bob Williams, Joan and Alex Munro, Janine and Max Coletti, Julie and Jack Elverd, Dianne and Peter Davis and Dianne and Neville Stone, hopefully I have not missed anyone.

The huge buffet provided was excellent and the drink prices were subsidised, so everything was there to be enjoyed.

The younger ones danced to music provided by a D.J. throughout the evening, but I'm afraid older ears found the volume a bit much at times.

The unit annual monster draw was held with prizes provided from ticket sales during the year.

There were some pretty good prizes being won, including \$1,000 cash to Stevo Hinic(Boo, Hiss) and a wheel-barrow full of Christmas goodies won by Bob Williams.

A good night out and enjoyed by all.

## FINANCIAL MEMBERS

I normally don't worry whether a member is strictly financial for a given year or not, because some overlook annual subscriptions for two or three years before paying back subs and often well into the future.

Accordingly, I post out newsletters from a mailing list, rather than from a strict financial members list. To come to the point, I intend to provide this list as a supplement to our next issue, in response to requests for addresses from members.

ALEX MUNRO

## PRIVATISATION

This is something we hear about almost every day, from all political parties wishing to maximise the value of each dollar expended on government departments. Not meaning to be unkind, but a fair proportion of the general public would consider that the work output of the average public servant is less in terms of efficiency than that expected in private enterprise.

Whether true or false, I doubt if any old soldier would think that way about the work performed in his old unit.

The consideration is that it would be cheaper to employ a pre-trained civilian in a clerical position at a rear base location, than train and outfit a soldier in both military and civilian skills.

The same could be said of numerous other tasks, including the production of maps.

At the moment the situation of the Army Survey Regiment is being reviewed, causing a good deal of concern in Bendigo. The following is an article that appeared in the "Bendigo Advertiser" in late October, that sums up the position:—

### **"FORTUNA FORCED TO SWEAT ON ITS FUTURE IN BENDIGO**

Fortuna's fate is not due to be known until late February. But pressure is mounting to save the Army Survey Regiment's 320 jobs for Bendigo. Bruce Reid MHR yesterday attacked the Federal Government in Parliament for threatening the regiment's future. And one of the commercial bidders moved to reassure Bendigonians it would base its work here if it won the contract. Perth-based Fugro Survey said it recognised the regiment's value to Bendigo and planned to retain defence forces map-making here. Fugro was in Adelaide yesterday making its verbal presentation to the army review team evaluating the five bids, including Fortuna's own 500-page submission.

The review team is not due to make its recommendation to army chiefs until February 28th. "All we can do now is to sit back and hope for the best," one Survey regiment officer said yesterday. Mr Reid (Liberal, Bendigo) yesterday launched a spirited defence of the regiment during debate on a Private Member's Motion in Federal Parliament. "The regiment has been a contributor to the local region for past 50 years and the community view, which I support, is that Bendigo cannot stand to lose a \$10 million a year industry", he told the House. Mr. Reid attacked the Government for even opening the regiment's work to private bids. He said the use of private companies to produce tactical maps raised security questions.

"Security is virtually automatic when this material is being produced by the defence forces themselves, but this might not be the case if a private company is involved." "What happens to the members of the defence forces if they need maps urgently and workers employed by a private contractor to make those maps go on strike?" "The regiment's high quality work is respected internationally and the quality of its map-making and printing is recognised worldwide." "I commend the Army Survey Regiment for taking up the challenge and preparing a detailed and comprehensive submission to ensure it retains control over this important defence work." The regiment, one of Bendigo's biggest employers with about 320 people, hired consultants to help draft its submission. Nine officers and staff worked with the consultants for two months solid on the regiment's two volume, 500-page document. "

I think this story gives a reasonable picture of the current situation, so I suppose it's now a matter of wait and see.

ALEX MUNRO

## R.A.SVY. SPONSORSHIP OF SOLDIERS' CHAPEL DOORS

Well done! A total of \$200 was donated by members of our Association toward the cost of one of twenty doors in the new Soldiers' Chapel at Kapooka Recruit Training Battalion. This door will show the Corps badge on a toughened glass insert.

A receipt and letter of thanks has been sent to each donor, but once more, thank you, and I'm sure the target of \$5000 will be reached. Five grand seems a lot for a wood and glass door, so I suppose it must be a quality product, and can be viewed by visitors passing by Kapooka.

## OUR MAN AT THE OPENING

Bill Love received an invitation to attend the official opening of the Chapel on Saturday, 30th October, 1993, so decided to attend and stay a few days. He went to Wagga Wagga by bus, complete with his bowls case, with the intention of a quiet holiday and a few games of bowls at a local club or two. He attended the opening ceremony but was struck down by a heart attack the next morning, and spent the next couple of days in hospital. So much for a quiet holiday. Elizabeth went to Wagga Wagga to assist Bill home, but it was decided he should return by air ambulance, as mentioned in the "Sick List" report.

Bill brought back a copy of the local newspaper "The Daily Advertiser" from which the following account of the opening has been extracted \_\_\_\_\_

"More than 1500 Kapooka personnel and members of the Wagga community were present to celebrate the official opening of the \$1.4 million chapel, the fruition of years of fund raising and hard work since the national Soldiers' Chapel Appeal was launched in May, 1989.

The impressive chapel, designed as a dove in flight as a symbol of peace, was officially opened by the chapel patron and Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General J.C. Grey, AO. Official guests present at the ceremony and dedication included Chief of the Defence Forces, Admiral Alan Beaumont, General Officer Commanding Training Command, Chairman of the Trustees of the Australian Soldiers' Chapel Appeal and official host officer, Major General Frank Hickling, and Kapooka commandant and ceremony host Colonel David Kibbey.

The chapel is the only chapel dedicated to the Australian soldier.

The chapel was built after a national appeal for funds was launched by the former Chief of General Staff, Lt.Gen Laurie O'Donnell on May 17th, 1989.

Construction of the chapel began in June last year. The new chapel replaces three old World War 11 vintage buildings which were originally used as lecture rooms. Each wing can accomodate about 150 people and the whole chapel opens up to seat about 600.

The facilities were the only remaining World War 11 buildings at Kapooka and were demolished last year to make way for the chapel. It has a sloping roof and two extended sections on the sides in the shape of wings.

Four massive stained glass windows adorn the chapel with the most prominent being a huge three metre square glass etched in the Rising Sun badge, which is the emblem of the Australian soldier.

Hundreds of people returned to the new chapel yesterday morning to attend the inaugural service, followed by individual services held in each wing of the chapel for Catholic, Anglican and Protestant denominations - a fitting end to a weekend of symbolic ceremonies for Kapooka."



Chief of the General Staff, Lt.-Gen J.C. Grey, AO, unlocks the doors to the new Kapooka soldiers' chapel.

We hope our Corps badge will look as good as those on the doors about to be opened.

## BENDIGO RE-UNION - OCTOBER, 1993

The usual well organised end of year re-union at Bendigo was held on the last weekend in October.

The festivities started on the Friday night at the Goldfields Hotel (Eddie Esposito's old residence) with a really great turn up. Unfortunately, I didn't arrive at the hotel 9.45 pm, as I was unable to leave home as early as I would have liked, which was a pity, because the party began to break up close to 11pm.

I wasn't the only Adelaidean present, as I met Wally Mooney and Rocky Rugari, who had travelled over earlier in the day with their wives. On the following day, Saturday, there was a BBQ held from mid-day on at Fortuna, and again very well attended. The weather was fine and pleasant, as was the company, and turned out a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The reunion finished that night with a dinner held at the Metropolitan Hotel (Behind the old town hall if you can't remember) with a smaller group, as the Melbourne contingent had mostly departed for home by late afternoon. A great weekend.

Time did not permit a lengthy conversation with everyone I know, but I did manage a chat with several.

Just to mention a few names seen during the weekend. Bill Hook (ACT), Bill Jeffery (ACT), Clem Sargent (ACT), Peter Tangey (QLD), Alex Cairney (QLD), Peter Bates-Brownsword (QLD), Eric Jewell (MELB), Dave King (MELB), Sonny Dingle (MELB), Brian Rogers (MELB), Roger Rix, Evan Jiri, Jack Gore, George Graham, Joe Farrington, John Hogan, Von Forrest (without Bill), Gordon Haswell, Neil Rankine, Bob Mason, Len Davies, Stan Campbell (NSW), President Don Swiney, Secretary Tony Ellis, Don Ridge, Tom Royle, Daryl Hockings who is still serving and now stationed at Broadmeadows and Merv Marks.

A little bit of news- Evan Giri has had a triple by-pass operation, surgery to his disks, and now has a patch of melanoma on his back - not good.

Roger Rix is still doing contract drafting in Bendigo. Jack Gore is a lot thinner than he used to be, but otherwise looks OK. Stan Campbell has recently re-married. Bob Mason is still growing flowers (sales are good) and doing the odd leadlight commission.

Brian Rogers is the Sales Administration Manager with Stramit in Melbourne, but is thinking of retiring soon.

Peter B.B. busies himself as a volunteer worker with his church in Brisbane, coaches a junior basketball team and still plays the drums in a band, at odd times.

At least half of the visitors were accompanied by their wives, which added a lot to the reunion, and yet I have not mentioned any, because my memory for names is fading a bit. A weak excuse I know, but I do apologise ladies.  
ALEX MUNRO.

**35th AUSTRALIAN SURVEYORS CONGRESS  
DARWIN. 15th/22nd May, 1993**

(Continued from Newsletter No 7)

Q: Well, where were we?

A: At 'The Alice' en-route to Darwin for the Congress!

Touring the Alice region was a real buzz!, many sights first visited in 1957 on the way to the NT for the initial 1:50,000 mapping programme had gone, (perhaps I couldn't find them!), and the Alice is now a real tourist destination, & they are now well catered for.

The 'safari camp' at the base of Billy Goat Hill we stayed at in '57 is still there but has been considerably upgraded. Did someone really get a kickback for our enforced 'custom'?? Gone, (I think!), are the two-person tents that we were crammed into whilst the Jeeps were prepared by Wally Brownlow for the overland 'trek' to Darwin, and believe it or not, supplies of firewood were again confirmed for use at camps along the way. Whoever pulled the wool over Maj JK's eyes deserves a medal!, from me at least!

I did see, (I think!), the 1958 campsite some short distance from The Alice where we camped and during the evening meal, the camp was split by a rapidly rising flash flood! Nothing drastic but it did provide some amusement to us all. The water had gone by the following morning putting paid to the medium to long-term residential ambitions to some of more adventurous surveyors amongst us! Incidentally the camp site now appears to be under one, (or some), of the more 'flashy' Alice suburbs!

Some of the better known tourist sights have got better over the years. Standley Chasm is now

commercial but very well managed by the local Aboriginal Community, and it is well worth the small entrance fee to make the walk/climb into the chasm to ponder on the grandeur of it all. Better still if you can get there at midday when the sun is directly overhead when the colours on the walls are, (I am told!), spectacular!

After our Alice break we headed North, up past the, (now), township of Ti Tree, where we camped on our first night out in '57, making Barrow Creek for lunch, - our second night out of The Alice in '57, finally making Tennant Creek for the night. Not bad!, - three '57 days travel in a shade under a day!

There no doubt about it the new road is great, but it's well worth the trouble to take the occasional detour to revisit the 'old' highway just to see how the two compare! In retrospect it's amazing that the old WWII Jeeps, and Blitz trucks made it!

At Tennant Creek we made contact with some known surveying colleagues and the following day toured the various operating gold mines about the place. Pamela exceeded all my expectations in that after donning overalls, hardhat, cap lamp, and the rest of the paraphernalia, she made the trip to the bowels of the earth in the mine cage. It's an experience not to be missed!

We, (all), stumbled about in semi-darkness while David, (our Guide), explained the intricacies of underground surveying and after a full day arrived back in town for some sightseeing. Better to stay in camp for the years have not been too kind to the town. It's dirty, and the locals don't help themselves too much either.

Our walk up the local lookout was through piles of 'Chateau Cardboard', cans, and bottles, - still it's an experience! I suppose it's better

to have done it and seen the result rather to have missed it and wondered!

After an incident-filled night in the local caravan park where some stray diseased wild dog was destroyed after being caught in a trap, - much to the anguish of a group of trendy tourists who knew everything, we headed off North again.

The country was really lush following rain they had had some two weeks prior, and much, (much), different from the trips to the Top End from 1957 onwards. Could it be the road?, or the comfort of an air-conditioned car on a sealed road?, - who knows?

That evening saw us at Mataranka Thermal Pools where we again set up camp. This is where the changes really became apparent. In '57 I remember camping close to a hole in the jungle where, beyond, lay the thermal pool. We were, in that year, guests of the Station owners.

Nowadays, being fully commercialised we were relieved of our hard-earned cash, allocated a campsite, and walked along well defined trails to the thermal pool. Gone are the days of brushing aside the jungle vegetation to get in as the pool surround is now fully retained by concrete and stone steps and walls. The water though retains all of the freshness I remembered so well.

An incident in '57 which sticks vividly in my mind was the boyish game we all enjoyed, moreso when Major JK commented during a break in play that "on the sporting field we are all equal". After that he didn't last too long and was dragged from the pool almost unconscious from drowning. He never did return to the pool after that!!

With the lure of the springs, and the local watercourses feeding the Roper River we spent a

couple of days touring. The town of Mataranka, (on the highway), hasn't changed that much, - just a bit more commercial!, - and dirty!

We had planned on staying at Katherine but after having a look at what I remember as a sleepy little town on the Katherine River, now heavily commercialised, decided to push on to ??

The detour to Edith Falls, (now a bitumen road), was, (again), well worth the effort and it wouldn't have taken much arm twisting to get us to stay the night. Like Mataranka Springs the camping areas are now well designated with full facilities. The Edith Springs pool hasn't changed at all, - it's still fresh and clean.

After a dip we headed off, and after checking out the Hayes Creek Hotel, and camp ground, (only so so!), decided to take our chances at Douglas Hot Springs, (about 20km from Hayes Creek). A favourite spot from the 'old days'.

The trek well away from the bitumen was still well worth the effort. Despite a rural camping ground there were still well designated sites very close to the pools with some shade. Camping fees are on the honour system, - \$2.00 in the box! Remember when you could camp down next to the pools??

After setting up the tent, the dip in the pool was refreshing after a day on the road. The weather had us a little concerned as past Fenton Airstrip the road had all the indications of a dry weather track only! Still it held off and what more could you ask with a glass of wine, (South Oz naturally!), watching the sunset. Only hiccup was the buzz of small generators at the other campsites!

Heading north the next morning we passed many landmarks from the old days, Access to the much

loved Cullen, & Fergusson Rivers, where a dip was in the old days mandatory! is now restricted as all of the low-level bridges have been replaced by modern bridges well above flood level.

I must confess I did get 'lost' in Pine Creek. A case of too much intelligence, - no common sense as the 'old' Stuart Highway has been taken over by the Pine Creek Gold Mine, and the new road heads well away from the twisting turning hills that were the delight of the young surveyor/petrol heads who were the dread of all normal road users in the late fifties to early sixties.

We, (eventually), found the new road, but a little further North detoured along what is now termed the scenic route towards Adelaide River. Actually it's the old road!

Spinning along, memories came flooding back! Old camp sites close to small water holes, the occasional tree still bearing old blazes, - almost brings tears to the eyes!!

Made the required detour into Robin Falls. Was it really named after ??, - in 1957 as a very young Sapper I thought so! We trekked up from the now mandatory well marked parking area, through the jungle to the 'Falls. The water was inviting, - we had come unprepared, but what the hell! Into the pool, very refreshing but, you guessed it we were sprung. The uninvited couple took it all in their stride, and after we made our departure they took their turn in the small rock pool under the waterfall!

Surprisingly Adelaide River has not changed much! The Pub is still as it was, - a bit bigger but not much different at all! As a very junior Sapper many a night was spent sleeping on the lawn behind the Pub whilst our Party Leaders,

John Hogan, Bill Mitchell, and the like thrashed out a revised surveying programme to take us through the next week. When you consider in 1957 we had no radios I reckon we did pretty well!

It was back in 1957 that the trailer carrying the "firewood for the Officer's Mess" finally gave up the ghost, breaking off at the trailer A-frame, and reluctantly all our valuable fire-wood was jettisoned beside the road. I think at this stage that Major JK realised that someone, (in Adelaide), was having a lend of him!

However it was not to stop there! The Publican on hearing of the firewood episode sussed us out as being as green as grass, and warned us of a vast mob of buffalo on the road to the North. Major JK, being as cautious as ever, halted the trek, and sent both Bill Mitchell and myself, (being in the Blitz truck) out to reconnoitre the situation. In trepidation we headed off as far as Coomalie Creek, without sighting a buffalo, - much to our satisfaction. Returning to Adelaide River our report was derided by the Publican who convinced Major JK that any well disciplined herd would hide from a truck, but rush out and ambush small vehicles such as Jeeps. Needless to say we made camp at the local railway siding, (it's still there!), whilst the Publican kept the beer coming!

For Pamela's sake we visited the War Cemetery which is now well shaded under mature trees. My Kodachrome slides from '57 show small shrubs about the place. Thirty six years is a long time!

Detouring to Batchelor we visited friends on a small 'block' some distance out of town. Fences all over the place with alternate life styles, and those trying to make a living out of now mango, and fruit farms! They're struggling!, and living very frugally. Australia will always have some pioneers.

Biggest change to us 'oldies' was that the outskirts of Darwin are now well down past the Howard Springs turnoff!

We passed the usual smattering of shanty developments, (is that an oxymoron??), and despite my lack of current knowledge arrived at Steve and Gill Rose's place in the mid-afternoon.

We tidied up, and unpacked the trailer whilst we waited on their return, - they're still working, - bless 'em!

With the Congress starting the following day both Steve and myself were fairly busy with Congress Registration, attending Technical Sessions, Social Events and the like. These Congress's can be tiring but with a little judicious pacing you can survive!

John Hillier delivered an interesting Paper on the RA Svy's contribution to mapping in the Top End, - actually it encompassed all military mapping from the early colonial days to very recently. I was very fortunate in being asked the Chair this session, however, the downside! Where did John get all those slides with yours truly as a baby-faced 18-year old dragging chains, cutting brush, clearing trees, building cairns, etc?? Alex are you the culprit??

Len Beadell wowed them at the Annual Dinner! Believe it or not there are, (still), some older surveyors about the place who had heard of but never met this wonderful man! You should be getting Len' to write this column for the Newsletter!

As an interesting aside despite the money spent in getting Len' to the Congress, meeting his accommodation costs, paying his fees, etc the Congress Committee were astounded to find that they actually made a profit on the night in that whilst Len' was talking no-one was drinking, -

hence the saving!! Keep it up Len'!

The Congress programme allowed some time for the now traditional RA Svy Reunion which although with limited numbers was well attended at the Darwin Yacht Club on the shores of the harbour.

Over a relaxed dinner we all chatted about old times, and in general had a real good time. Besides myself, (and Pamela), others attending were, (with their ladies), John Hillier, 'Tom' Sawyer, Steve' Rose, John Monteath, John Cavill, some others who's names escape me, and Len' Beadell.

At the completion of the Congress we all bade our farewells, - promising to keep in touch, and went our various ways. We had planned to head over to the Kimberleys to do a bit of rubber-necking, and to make our way back to Adelaide via the West Australia coast, the Nullabor, Eyre Peninsular, etc.

Family commitments, however, necessitated a quick return direct to Adelaide stopping at already tried camp sites. No worries there's always some time in the future! Today two years ago today was the time of decision and my departure from the SA Public Service and to date it's been great!

Camping, (again!), at Mataranka Thermal Ponds, Tennant Creek, The Alice, (naturally), Cadney Homestead, Port Augusta, we were back home in a bit under a week, - a far cry from the two weeks in 1957!

As they say, "there's no place like home!" however shortly after our return, whilst we were down in the country we were 'visited' by our local burglars who took most electronic gear, some tools, etc.

Only just mastering the new PC, hence the jazzy

format for this column! However I digress!

For those of you who are in the position to attend these Surveying Congress's held annually I urge you to make the effort to attend, and support those who spend many nights getting the things off the ground. Believe me the effort to attend is well worth it, - if only to renew the bonds of friendship with colleagues in the surveying profession.

Funny thing! Twenty or so years ago I never thought that I would be able to socially mix with the likes of NRJH, there's hope for all of us!, - perhaps I've become more tolerant!

Since our return to Adelaide both Pamela and myself have had the pleasure of attending a short Surveying Seminar at Portland where we renewed valuable friendships made over the years. For this type/style of two-day event the costs can be minimal, and accommodation and meal costs are generally kept to an absolute minimum.

The next Institution of Surveyors Australia Congress is to be held in Melbourne in March 1994, followed by an Institution of Engineering and Mining Surveyors Australia Conference in Mildura later in the year. If you would like further information on these worthwhile events then please get in touch with me on 2614610, - anytime!

A promise! Nothing more from me for at least two Newsletters! What Jim, (and Alex), need is MORE input from ALL of you! Perhaps with a bit of arm-twisting Len Beadell may be encouraged to put pen to paper with an interesting anecdote, or two, from his adventures about the place.

John D A Harrison

## NSW ASSOCIATION - CHRISTMAS RE-UNION

Held this year at "The Journalists' Club", 36-40 Chalmers St., Sydney, on Friday 3rd December, 1993, for members and wives.

The date is an awkward time for members in Adelaide, as most do not travel to any extent so close to Christmas. However, as the reunion is an annual event at about the same time each year, it might be of interest for anyone in or around Sydney at the time, so keep it in mind, as you would be assured of a welcome.

John Maltby is the Association Secretary, and his address is:-

COLLARROY N.S.W. 2097.

## LONG SERVICE RETIREMENTS

NEVILLE STONE

Quite a few months ago, now manages a Bob Jane tyre franchise on Port Road, somewhere about Alberton way.

JACK ELVERD

Only a month or so back. Now works with the State Transport Authority.

MICK SARSON

Finishes his time about the end of this month, but not sure of what he intends to do with his spare time.

EDDIE JACOBS

Finishes next February(1994) but so far no news on his intentions in civvy street.

... AND YOU SAY YOU WERE JUST PLAYING REVEILLE?..BOY YOU MUST HAVE UPSET SOMEONE, I'VE NEVER HAD TO REMOVE A WHOLE BUGLE BEFORE.



Merry Christmas  
and  
best wishes  
for a  
Happy New Year