



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 19
AUGUST 1997

SOCIAL CALENDAR

"Drinks after 5" at the Old Queen's Arms in Wright St every first Friday in each month. This get-together has proved popular, but a few fresh faces would be nice now and then. The pub also serves a very decent counter tea at very reasonable prices.

"Christmas Dining-out Night" to be held very late in November or early December. A separate proforma will be sent out with details nearer the date, so keep it firmly in mind.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED

Finding news for a newsletter is something very difficult, similar to pushing something very soft up a steep hill with a sharp stick. Perhaps not that bad, but it seems like it at times, so what about all those anecdotes, stories, illness, change of address, etc. A 'phone call to George Ricketts or Alex Munro will fix the problem.

ANZAC DAY PARADE - FRIDAY 25 APRIL 1997

This year we were back at our old form-up point in Victoria Square, in very sunny and pleasant weather, just the opposite to the rain of last year.

Our roll-up was probably the best ever, with about 25 marching, led as always by George Ricketts and with Bob Dikkenberg carrying our banner in his usual sterling manner.

We stepped off on time, with the usual problems of bands too close or too far apart, the inevitable stopping and starting, etc, which is almost impossible to eliminate given the circumstances, but these were minor problems and the parade went very well.

The weather drew the spectators to town, and the crowd lining the route was bigger than normal, especially after crossing North Terrace, and as usual showed their appreciation of those marching.

At the dispersal point in Pennington Gardens we lined up for a group photo and were snapped as well by a roving Advertiser photographer, but unfortunately I was not able to obtain a copy later on.

Walking back to the reunion afterwards with Bob Griffin we were hailed by Rob Wilson's daughter, Heather, not seen for years now, so had time for a quick chat before heading to the Queen's Arms.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS HISTORY PROJECT

COL Simon Lemon sent a letter recently to say that a contract was signed in July for the completion of a manuscript by December 1998 funded at public expense.

A noted historian Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, has been engaged for the task and has already started his research by interviewing BRIG Don Macdonald. He would welcome hearing from former members of the Corps, who have interesting recollections of significant events during their service, and perhaps memorabilia such as photographs, etc, also of interest.

HISTORY OF THE ARMY SURVEY REGIMENT

This is now under way in Bendigo, to be written by local historian Val Lovejoy, as a scholarship thesis for the degree of Master of Arts through La Trobe University, and funded by ex-Fortuna Association.

Val has distributed a questionnaire, which might not have reached many of our readers, so if you are a former Fortuna bod, and wish to help, contact Alex Munro.

HISTORY OF 4 FIELD SURVEY SQUADRON

Running a bit late, but the questionnaire threatened 3 months ago is now being distributed.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Held at the Queen's Arms Hotel in Wright St from noon onwards. We lost our spot from last year to another ex-service group, but were well provided for anyway. As lunch time approached, tables were joined together for lunch groups, but no sooner did that seem under control, when 2 or 3 more would wander in creating a fresh shuffle of tables, but we all sat down eventually.

An excellent meal was served for \$6.00 each, which included a \$2.00 pokie ticket, so was pretty good value. I know 3 lucky players on the poker machines who multiplied their \$2.00 freebie many times over, making a handsome profit on the day. Pam Harrison and Dianne Dunn graced us with their presence at lunch, and perhaps one or two other ladies were present also, but my memory is a bit hazy on that, so my apologies.

Around 2pm we stocked up on refreshments and retired to a private room for our AGM, attended by 30 members and probably the best roll-up since a few years back at the Dom Polski Centre.

It was the usual light hearted meeting lasting around one hour, as anything longer makes the troops fidget a bit.

So it was back to the bar where the TAB, pokies and a few wild stories used up what remained of the afternoon, so ending a very pleasant day.

Alex Munro

AGM 1997

Held at the Queen's Arms Hotel on Anzac Day.

The following members attended - George Ricketts(President), Alex Munro (Secretary), Bob Dikkenberg (Treasurer), Bob Mills, Brett Knuckey, Alex Czomohalan, Harry Dunn, Bob Griffin, Bob Love, Jim Dunn, John Frith, Peter Elverd, Tony Stephens, Dave Irving, Mick Dempster, Luke Mills, Ken Jeffery, Pat Cox, John Wicker, John Zuringer, John Harrison, John Nathan, Stevo Hinic, Max Coletti, Bill Griggs, Rob Langley, Lincoln Smith, Jason Phillips, Bob Turnbull and Bernie Watson.

Apologies were received from - Dave Collins, Colin van Senden, Alan Adsett, John Scharber, Laurie Sutton, Dave Pounsett, John Whitburn, Frank McMillan and Greg Higgs.

Other than several minor matters discussed, the following were the main items-

- A vote of appreciation was recorded for the work done by Bernie Watson with his trusty camera in providing photography over the years.
- Subscriptions for 1997 would remain at \$5.00, but increase to \$10.00 for 1998, except for WW2 members who would continue to pay \$5.00 only.
- A vote of thanks was extended to the outgoing committee and the following members were elected for 1997/98 -

President: George Ricketts **Vice President:** Tony Stephens

Secretary: Alex Munro **Treasurer:** Bob Dikkenberg

Committee members: Jim Dunn, Bob Mills and Dave Irving

History Fund Trustees: George Ricketts, Alan Adsett and Alex Munro.

The meeting was opened at 2:25pm and closed at 3:20pm.

REUNION AT FORTUNA

The reunion was held over the weekend of 26/27 April this year. I accompanied George Ricketts in driving to Bendigo for the weekend, as both of us like to visit the place each year if we can.

We arrived late Saturday afternoon with plenty of time to attend a casual dinner organised by the local committee, and held at the Rising Sun Hotel near Bendigo Base Hospital. Laurie and Pam Sutton were there also, breaking a journey back to Adelaide from Melbourne. The dinner was a very relaxing way to start the reunion, having a few ales and catching up with the local crowd. Sunday morning was free, so George went to visit Jack Cullen and I attended the RSL "church service" in Pall Mall.

The main get-together was under way at noon, on the lawns outside the old OR's Tavern, with a BBQ lunch and very convenient refreshments from the tavern.

The weather and the company were very agreeable, although I thought the numbers were down a bit on prior occasions, but this gave a better opportunity to have a yarn with everyone. I can't remember everyone present, but once more neglecting the ladies, I did see Doug Carswell, Gary Warnest, Don Swiney, Vonne Forrest, Bob Aulsbrook, Peter Saunders, Stan Vote, Dave Christie, Dave King, Frank Thorogood, John Hogan, Barry Hogan, Tony Ellis, Sam Chambers, Fred Panknin, Steve McConnachie, Peter Gale, Evan Giri, Bob Roach and Carol Caster.

The crowd began moving home around 4pm, including Laurie and Pam to make Adelaide by mid-night, but George and I were a bit more relaxed, leaving after breakfast on the Monday. A very convivial weekend.

Alex Munro

FORTUNA OPEN FOR INSPECTION

The above heading was also that for an article and photographs appearing in Bendigo Advertiser of July 8 '97.

Apparently tours of Fortuna Villa are still being conducted each Sunday from 1pm to 2pm, so if visiting Bendigo at some time, you might be interested in showing the old place to family or friends.

Group bookings and other tour times can be arranged by phoning Pat Graham on 5442 0210 in Bendigo.

BACK TO SME '97 REUNION 3 - 5 OCT '97

A letter has been received from the School of Military Engineering at Moorebank, NSW, inviting all former members of RASVY to attend their reunion.

In former times most of us attended dinners or reunions at the old School of Military Survey, but since integration with RAE and the relocation of the school to Moorebank, this very kind invitation will allow us to continue on with the tradition, although the distance might be a bit of a drawback for those of us living west of Broken Hill.

The reunion starts late afternoon on Friday 3 Oct, continues through Saturday / Saturday night and finishing early Sunday 5 Oct. Naturally wives are invited also, and some double and single accommodation is available at SME at very little cost. In addition, special tours and functions for the ladies have been arranged to cover those times for events mainly of interest to the 'boys'. The whole reunion has been organised through and at the invitation of the PMC and Members of the RAE Sergeants Mess, and promises to be top quality.. Anyone interested in going as a group or singly can contact Alex Munro on (08) 8277 7074, for further details.

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

This was held at the Rob Roy Hotel in Halifax St on Saturday 5 July 1997, and as a first time event proved very successful. As you know all such dinners previously held were organised as a mess or unit function and conducted in a fairly formal manner, however it is unlikely that such dinners will be held again.

Dress was semi-formal in that gentlemen were requested to wear a jacket and tie and ladies to wear after 5 attire, and except for a toast and response to The Corps, everything else was casual.

Everyone gathered in a side bar for a drink and a chat, until all had arrived, and then moved into the dining room together.

The decor and atmosphere was very pleasant and the three course dinner served was excellent.

As President, George Ricketts addressed the gathering and proposed the toast to The Corps, after which everyone mingled between the tables to catch up on local gossip for an hour or two, before ending a very agreeable evening.

THOSE ATTENDING THE CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

George & Marge Ricketts, Alex & Joan Munro, John & Pam Harrison, Mick & Barbara Hansen, Bill & Elizabeth Love, Moyna Briggs, John & Sharon Frith, Jason & Ann Phillips, Bob & Mary Mills, Brett & Jane Knuckey, Stevo Hinic & Pauline, John & Lea Whicker, Pat Cox, Ken Jeffery, Jim & Rita Dunn, Max & Janeen Coletti, Peter & Dianne Davis, Bob & Margaret Dikkenberg, Bill & Jan Griggs, Bob & Rhonda Cooper.

Apologies were received from Colin van Senden, Harry Dunn, Darcy Patrick, Ted Bear, John Zuringer, Alex Czornohalen, Desi Asaris, Bob Love and John Nathan.

PEOPLE NEWS

John Zuringer: John is still in the landscape/gardening business but has diversified further into the dog food business. It all started when a local veterinarian gave to John a 'secret recipe' for dog food, and sensing the commercial possibilities he researched the subject and found there was a viable local market.

John then obtained clearances from his local council and the Health Department, etc, bought some secondhand bulk cooking equipment and set up his back shed into a boutique dog tucker cookery.

He delivers daily to an expanding list of local dog owners, to the extent that he now employs two young blokes to cope with the demand, and while he is yet to become a challenge to the Pal corporation, business is improving.

Well done John and best of luck.

Peter Saunders: Still in Bendigo and still in the printing game. Peter sends a big cheerio to Mick Dempster and wants to know why he didn't attend the Fortuna reunion last April.

Up to you now Mick.

Chris Parker: Recently retired at SME after 30 years service, to live a life of bad habits at Windemere Park, wherever that is in NSW, but somewhere near John McCulloch.

Good luck Chris.

PEOPLE NEWS (continued)

Brian Partridge: Brian rang Stevo Hinic recently for a chinwag and catch up on back news.

Brian retired from the Corps in 1989 and still lives in Alstonville in northern NSW with his wife and two sons, commuting to nearby Lismore each day to work.

He still plays cricket for Alstonville, but has slowed down a bit, not doing his wicket keeper/opening bat stint as he used to in previous years.

Brian told Stevo that awhile back he went to Brisbane for *Barry Lutwyche's* 50th birthday celebration. Barry is still serving as an Engineer and still deciding about retirement.

He also mentioned *John Gilbert*, now residing in Toowoomba, QLD, and driving a taxicab for a living. John was involved in a nasty car accident many years ago, which caused bone fusion in one ankle restricting movement to some extent.

Brian was a wealth of information and mentioned that *Daryl Hocking* received an award in the last Queen's Birthday honours list. Stevo checked the awards in the Australian newspaper, and it read as follows -

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) - Australian Army, Major Daryl Hocking, Kensington VIC, for outstanding service to the Australian Army in Base Logistics.

I also read in the Apr '97 issue of the RAE 'Sapper News' that Daryl has or is about to retire from the service.

John Hogan: Had a hip replacement a few months back, but seemed to be recuperating fairly well when last seen.

Bernie Watson: Bernie departed the Adelaide scene about two months ago, to live in NSW. Best of luck Bernie, we'll miss you on Anzac Day.

HARRY RAISBECK

George Ricketts could hardly believe what he saw on TV recently, a brief flash of some Melbourne Icebergers including his old pal Harry Raisbeck.

Following this up, he received a news cutting from *Eric Jewell* in Melbourne, of an article printed in the Herald Sun of Monday 21 July '97, which explained all.

The article (in part) read —

BRACING DIP A MORNING RITUAL

If you think getting out of bed is an achievement this winter, remember 87 year old Harry Raisbeck.

Harry gets up before dawn and swims a kilometre in the Middle Brighton Sea Baths, currently at 6 deg and he's been doing it each morning for 40 years.

About 150 brave swimmers, including other devotees or Icebergers, joined Harry yesterday for the 5th annual Harry Raisbeck Winter Mile. —

For those young enough not to remember, Harry served in the Survey Corps for most of his earlier life, having a very significant role during the most formative years of the Corps' history.

BOB MILLS

CHALLENGES THE SIMPSON DESERT ON BICYCLE

(FOR A WORTHY CAUSE)

Starting at 6.30am on Tue 30 Sep 97, Bob will put his determination and more to the test over 4½ days as he participates in The Simpson Desert Cycle Classic (SDCC).

The SDCC is a push bike race across the Simpson Desert from Purni Bore in the west, via Rig Road and Inside Track to Birdsville, a distance of 580 km. SDCC is also a fund raising event in support of the Paraplegic Benefit Fund (PBF) of Australia.

Semi competitive training rides of 100, 150 and 200km have recently been completed in creditable times, and a 400km ride will be undertaken shortly.

With consistently high results in the Army's basic and combat fitness tests and master of the local Military Biathlon (16km on foot in combat order through 6 shooting stands) with 4 first and 1 second place in his division from six starts, Bob is considered a suitable representative for the Army in the SDCC.

Bob's major supporter for participating in the SDCC is Defence Centre - Adelaide (DC-A), support has also been provided by local business Bicycle Express and bike manufacturer Trek Bicycles to put Bob on a very awesome mountain bike for the race. Joint Movement Control Office - Adelaide (JMCO-A), Bob's new unit since the closure of 4 Fd Svy has also been providing admin support for the exercise. Support crew for Bob will be CPL Lincoln Smith, Lincoln is also an ex 4 Fd Svy member also currently serving at JMCO-A.

The overall trip will see Bob and Lincoln travel 3,200km(approx) via Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta into the desert area and following the race, return to Adelaide via Birdsville Track and Leigh Creek.

Fund raising efforts are being conducted for PBF and Bob would be grateful to hear from members of our Association who would like to donate to this worthy cause. Donations over \$2.00 will be receipted for taxation purposes, donations of \$15 or more will provide membership to PBF. **For further info on PBF or to arrange collection of your donation, phone Bob on (08) 8298 1089 (home) or (08) 8300 6734 (work).**

Those further afield may mail donations in the form of cheques or money orders to:

Bob Mills

SEACLIFF PARK SA 5049

THE "BIG E" FAREWELL

Tony Ellis was buried in the Bendigo Lawn Cemetery on 8 July 1997, an overcast, cold and damp afternoon, which did not deter a very large crowd from paying their last respects. Following the funeral service, a thanksgiving service was held in the William Farmer Memorial Chapel in McCrae St, after which afternoon tea was served. The hall was packed with Tony's friends to enjoy a hot cuppa and reminisce on old times, in many ways resembling a reunion.

Seen on the day were Don Ridge, Neil Rankin, Evan Giri, Peter Saunders, Donna and Fred Smalley, John Hogan, Gary Warnest, Gordon Haswell, Jim Mulqueen, Doug Carswell and Sam Chambers, to name just a few who come to mind. Unfortunately for Don Swiney, he was confined to bed with a severe dose of 'flu or similar, and unable to attend.

Late in the afternoon, a few of us found our way to the Metropolitan to hold an old fashioned pub wake, something I'm sure Tony would have approved.

Alex Munro

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS HISTORICAL COLLECTION MUSEUM

The museum was officially opened on Fri 18 April '97, attracting a large group of former and serving members, to the School of Military Engineering at Moorebank.

The opening began with a very acceptable morning tea, following which the assembly was welcomed by Colonel Kelly, Director of Engineers, who spoke on the importance of recording Corp history and the integration into RAE. BRIG Don Macdonald then gave recollections of his time in the Corps before unveiling an engraved brass plaque to commemorate the occasion, and declaring the museum open.

The building housing the museum was built under RAE direction and from all accounts is particularly suitable for the presentation of the Survey collection. Thanks must go also to LTCOL Peter Cates and his staff, for setting up the displays and being on hand to welcome visitors through the museum.

Following the inspection of the museum, MAJ Geoff Ford led an inspection of the new Geomatic Wing of the school, before everyone gathered for an excellent BBQ lunch and a final chance to catch up with old friends.

Many thanks to Gary Warnest for the above information.

VALE

JACK CULLEN

Jack died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of 12 August 1997 at the age of 104 years. He was in hospital at the time, recuperating after a fairly minor fall at his home in Bendigo a few weeks earlier.

Jack's life and times have been fairly well recorded, from his early days as a boy in Ireland, migration to Australia, service in France with the Australian Army during WWI, his peacetime service in the Survey Corps and later during WW2, to a final posting to Fortuna and his later retirement and settlement in Bendigo.

His long service and dedication during a period that saw major change in mapping technology, should ensure Jack a place in the history of the Corps.

IAN WARK

Ian died suddenly on 8 June 1997 at Murray Bridge aged 48 years. Unfortunately no other details are known. He was something of a character in many ways, and anecdotes of his exploits and lifestyle are numerous enough to ensure that Ian will be remembered for many years to come.

TONY ELLIS

Tony died suddenly at his home in Bendigo on 3 July 1997 as the result of a heart condition. He must have felt that something was amiss, when he tried to get help by phoning for an ambulance, but it was too late by the time it arrived.

Fondly known as the "Big E", Tony's long service career was split between periods at Bonegilla and Fortuna, where his cartographic expertise was very highly regarded and instrumental in no small way for the successful completion each year of large numbers of maps.

In retirement, Tony maintained contact with the Fortuna crowd and for many years was Treasurer to the "Ex Fortuna" Survey Association, being a regular attend at all functions held.

Tony will be sadly missed by his numerous friends, not only around Bendigo, but throughout Australia.

VALE (continued)

PETER PUCZKOWSKI

Peter died on 18 May 1997 at Mountain Creek in Queensland, after a very long battle with cancer. He underwent major surgery about 6 years ago, which was not sufficient to stop the spread of the disease, and following treatment was to no avail. Although physically disabled to some degree, Peter never gave in but kept living life to the full, showing such determination that he kept going far longer than someone with a lesser will.

While on holiday with his family in Queensland about three years ago, he found that the climate helped his condition much more than in Adelaide, so he sold his business interests here and moved back to the Sunshine State, but maintaining close ties with his Adelaide friends.

Peter will be remembered with sadness by all who served with him.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS

With considerable sadness, we report the death of the Princess of Wales in Paris in the early hours of Sunday 31 August 1997, as the result of a car accident in tragic circumstances.