



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 22
AUGUST 1998

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Corps Birthday Dinner 1998

The dinner was held in town at the Rob Roy Hotel, Halifax St, on Saturday 4th July.

The roll up was excellent, with a total of 48 attending. There were 3 late afternoon cancellations, with Mick and Rhonda Dempster unable to attend due to gastro problems in the family and similarly Ann Phillips couldn't attend because of chicken pox with a small one, so I hope all have recovered by now.

Pre-dinner drinks were held in the saloon bar around 6.30 pm, before moving into the fining room just after 7 pm. During drinks Mick Coventry turned up, breaking an absence of several years, but was unable to stay long as he had to attend a party for his daughter. The meal provided by mine host was very acceptable, starting with soup, followed by 3 choices of main course and finishing with the choice of a sweet or a cheese board with coffee etc. The dining area was fairly spacious, allowing guests to move easily between tables and catch up on the latest goings-on, which most did. Half-way through proceedings I announced those who had tendered apologies for the dinner, before handing over to our president George Ricketts. After 20 years at the helm, George had great pleasure in introducing Bob Cooper as our new president, and also introduced our new secretary/treasurer John (T.J) Wicker and assistant Dave Irving. The new executive committee was formalised by a show of hands and much clapping and hooting from those not cornered with a job. Formalities concluded with George speaking for and proposing a toast to the memory of the Corps.

As the dinner progressed so did the noise level, so hopefully everyone enjoyed the food and company. After coffee, many strayed into the saloon bar and pokies area before wandering away for the night, leaving the hard-core group still at it near mid-night, ending a very pleasant evening.

Those attending the dinner were - Brian Collins, T.J. and Lea Wicker, Tony and Dell Balkauskas, Wally and Carol Herbst, Ken and Lorraine Talbot-Smith, Jim and Rita Dunn, George and Marg Ricketts, Peter and Dianne Davis, John

and Pam Harrison, Harry and Diane Dunn, Bob and Pam Ballard, Alex and Joan Munro, Moyna Briggs, Bill and Elizabeth Love, Mick and Barbara Hansen, Bob and Margaret Love, Neville and Dianne Stone, Stevo Hinic and Pauline Mannix, Bill and Jan Griggs, Bob and Rhonda Cooper, Bob Williams, Tony Stephens, Dave and Donna Irving, John and Sharon Frith, Angelo and Vicky Pantelidis, Greg Higgs and Jason Phillips.

Apologies came from Arthur Henson, John Zuringer, Bob Mills, Alan Adsett, Gordon Santo, Max Colleti, Andy Capp, John Nathan, Peter Elverd, Frank Bryant, Bob Dikkenberg, Paul Frost, Noel Sproles, Colin van Senden and John Jones.

Apologies for any omission.

Anzac Day Reunion

The early scene in Victoria Square was cold and windy, but fortunately no rain at the time of our form-up. There was a very good roll-up for the parade, possibly our best so far since our Association began marching as a group ten years ago. A welcome visitor to our ranks was DOUG BATH from Bunbury in WA, a former WW2 survey bod, holidaying in Adelaide.

Being a big and strong bloke, Bob Dikkenberg was to carry our banner wearing his army uniform but got tangled up in the transport arrangements from Keswick Barracks, so arrived after the start. In the mean time PAT COX volunteered for the job, for which I was grateful but in some doubt about, considering the windy conditions and Pat's light build, but all went well.

As usual George Ricketts led our group followed by Bob Love, Bill Love, Peter Davis, John Scharber, Alan Adsett, Doug Bath, John Harrison, Noel Sproles, Alex Munro, John Wicker, Peter Elverd, Stevo Hinic, John Whitburn, Simon Lemon (visiting Adelaide), David Bowyer, Dave Collins, Stan Stevens, Tony Stephens, Pat Cox, Eddy Jacobs and Bob Dikkenberg, a total of 22, although I have a strong feeling I've missed someone. My apologies.

Anzac Day Reunion (continued)

The march was appreciated by the usual very large crowd of spectators lining the route. Unfortunately there are no photographs of our group this year, as the camera brought along for the job was pinched in Victoria Square, although our group did appear on television for about 10 seconds, a much better coverage than recent years. Back at the Old Queen's Arms, in Wright Street afterwards, there was a good attendance for our lunch get together at mid-day, a fairly casual counter meal provided by the pub at reasonable prices, and it was good to see some new faces. Being a Saturday, it was a pity that there were regular weekend activities that could^{not} be avoided, so a few of our usual stayers had to leave early, before the AGM. Our AGM was underway just after 2 pm, being short and sharp, finished 35 minutes later allowing everyone to return to the bar, the pokies and the horses, and some extra chin-wag. A pleasant afternoon which finished about 4 pm, with Mick Dempster the last one out while waiting to be picked up by Rhonda.

Earlier in the day by chance, George Ricketts and Doug Bath were interviewed by Channel 10 TV and Doug appeared on the 6 pm news coverage of the parade, providing a highlight for the day.

The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 (Again)

Notification of the above medal appeared in our last newsletter, but some members had doubts about their eligibility. Conditions of entitlement are as follows:

1. For service in Korea between 1950 and 1953.
2. For service in the Malaya Emergency between 1948 and 1960.
3. For service in the Indonesian Confrontation between 1962 and 1966.
4. For service in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973.

Members requiring further information or an application form, contact Alex Munro. The information required is your full name and address, regimental number, unit served in, and dates of service. Send to "Medals Section, SCMA GPO Box 5108BB, Melbourne Victoria 3001".

Marree Man - Who Dunnit

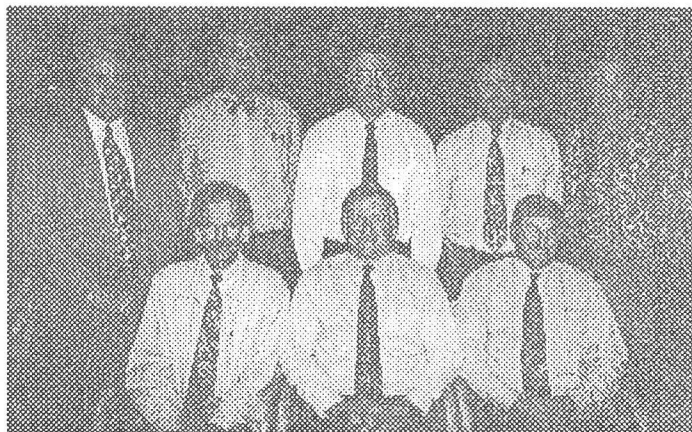


Highly visible from aircraft flying overhead, and etched into the top soil of a plateau west of Marree, the figure above appeared in a sudden and mysterious way several weeks ago. An article titled Marree Man's Military Bearing appeared in The Advertiser 22 July and stated "A group of army engineers and surveyors is now thought to be the most likely creator of the Marree Man. A convey of army vehicles, including earth moving equipment, was seen in the region at the time the 4 km long figure of an Aboriginal warrior appeared". The group had been involved in Aboriginal community works projects to the west.

Local tourist promoters reckon it's the greatest thing since sliced bread, although the Indigenous population seem not to be amused.

MSIA Conference - Fremantle, May 98

As usual at the biennial Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia Conference there was a formal gathering of ex-Survey personnel. The informal 'tippling session' included: (standing left to right) Peter Bowen, Don Maskew, Anthony Stephens, Alan Unkles, Pat Drover and (sitting) Phil Bray, John Mobbs and Phil Smalley. [Photo courtesy of Naureen Taylor]



At the time of the conference, Peter Bowen was the National President for the MSIA, Don Maskew was working as the GIS/Technology Officer for a Perth suburban Council, Anthony Stephens still making and selling maps, Pat Drover in from Roxby Downs, Phil Bray living in Perth, John Mobbs still a bureaucrat in Canberra and Phil Smalley running his map production house in Bendigo.

Colin van Senden was in Canberra late last April and attended the Anzac Day Parade held there. He posted me an interesting article printed in the Canberra Chronicle on Tuesday 28 April 1998, which I have included below. He also sent a few colour prints of the march, and although of good quality did not reproduce well enough for inclusion. Thanks Colin and I'll return the photo's soon.

Radford remembers

IN A TRIBUTE to a small World War II army unit, 51 Radford College Year 10 students marched behind the banner of the New Guinea Survey Section (8th Field Survey Section AIF) on Anzac Day. Each marched in memory of an individual member of the unit.

The previous Anzac Day, only two of the unit's few survivors were able to march, both of whom were unable to march this year.

Radford College has undertaken that the unit will be remembered in perpetuity in Canberra's Anzac Day marches.

The unit banner was given in

trust to Radford College principal Graeme Wigg as the school representatives formed up for the march on Anzac Parade.

The banner had originally been presented to the unit's survivors at their first, and only, reunion in August, 1995, by the then PNG High Commissioner Sir Frederick Reiher.

Last Saturday the unit was led by Kevin Gill, of Griffith, a Vietnam veteran who marched in memory of his father, Sapper Joe Gill.

Members of the New Guinea Survey Section were the first army surveyors on active service against the Japanese. From the Kokoda

Trail to the Markham, their job was to map actual and future combat areas, the former contested by the Japanese and the latter "owned" by them.

They served in forward areas in lightly-armed two-man parties, away from their unit for weeks and, in the words of General J.M. Sanderson, "under the most adverse circumstances and often in front of the forward troops".

The unit's 25 originals and 60 reinforcements came from every State in Australia, from Papua, and from New Guinea.

Little Boy Lost

At our Annual Corps Birthday Dinner in early July, we were discussing the good old days and the subject turned to Army life in Papua New Guinea. I happened to mention some of the silly things I did back in those days such as getting lost in the jungle. I have been told that there are many versions about what really happened and I have been asked to reveal the true story of what happened 26 years ago.

It was July, 1972 when we flew to Papua New Guinea direct from Edinburgh Airport and touched down at Goroka. This was my first time in Papua New Guinea (and only to date, as I wasn't in a hurry to get back) and after a week or so at Goroka base, Mick Sarson and I were dropped off by helicopter about 200 kilometres away on some remote mountain. There were a dozen or so natives waving to us as we landed and I found out later that they were paid a \$1 a day each to clear the hill of vegetation so we could set up our holiday camp.

So there we were, two young boys, 3500 kilometres from home in the middle of the jungle, $\frac{3}{4}$ the way up this mountain with a tent and 2 weeks supply of food. The natives were local with their village some 5 or 6 kilometres away about 2 or 3 hours walk through the jungle. (If you know where you are going). Our mission was to make our way to the top of the mountain, get the natives to clear the top of vegetation, build a helicopter pad if possible and set up our station for aerodist readings to other hills.

So the next day with the natives, we chopped our way through the jungle to the top of the mountain, and about 3 hours later, we reached the top. The jungle was that thick it was virtually semi dark once you left any clearing. In fact, the jungle was so thick with vegetation that you could walk within 5 metres of someone and not be seen.

Anyway, all was going well, the natives cleared the top of the mountain within a few days, and off they went back to their village. Now before they went, I

showed them a map and photograph and asked them to confirm that this was their village about 5 or 6 kilometres away. "Yes Master, place belong us", was the reply with a "Lik,lik, long way away" thrown in for good measure. I told them that if I can find the time, I'll come down and buy some artifacts from them.

So after 3 or 4 days of observations, we had the Sunday off, and I decided to go for a "Walk, walk, place belong natives." I threw on my jacket, took my flask of water, had a little to eat before setting out, looked at my map, and headed straight downhill towards a huge river to the native's village. I figured it should take me an hour or two to get there, an hour or so bargaining for artifacts, another 2 hours to get back and return in time for tea.

By my reckoning, straight down the hill, come out at the river, walk a few kilometres along the river, and then arrive at their village. Well after sliding down a cliff, and battling my way through the jungle, about 3 hours later, I finally arrive at the river. Looking back the jungle came all the way to the river with trees some 50 or 60 metres high, I thought the only way I am going to get my directions was to swim across the river and look back up the mountain. The river was some 200 metres wide but I was a good swimmer, so off I went. I crawled out the other side with leaches all over me and I still couldn't see the top of the mountain due to the high trees. So back I go, swimming back to the other side, and decide to walk upstream to where I reckoned the village was. By this stage, I was getting a little bit worried, but I thought that if I can find the village, the natives will escort me back to our camp. Another 2 hours passes by and finally I find the village deserted.

So what do I do, the only choice is to go back to where I came out of the jungle, and try to make it back up the mountain. By now it was late afternoon, so up I go as fast as I can. I just kept going up but I never reached the top. I was hoping I could pick out the light from our camp. Maybe I got within a hundred metres from our camp, I'll never know. Now I was a bit more worried, and I thought I would never get found if I stay in the jungle.

So decision made, I thought my only hope was to get back to the river so I can be seen from above. Down I ran until it got that dark I couldn't see any more

than a metre or two ahead of me. I finally had to stop with leaches crawling up my legs between my boots, and a thousand mosquitoes buzzing around me. I could hear eagles overhead, strange sounds all around me, and felt utterly deserted and worried.

By this time, my old mate Mick Sarson put in a radio call that I had gone missing. I waited for first light and ran down the mountain once more until I reached the river. There I stayed and an hour or two later, I heard the familiar noise of a helicopter. Of course, the helicopter had nowhere to land, so I was winched up a little worse for wear. In the chopper was John Harrison and he could see that I was a bit of a mess and so he asked me do I want to go back to the camp or back to base. John volunteered to take my place with Mick Sarson and off to the base I went.

The CO, then Major George Ricketts was there waiting for me when I arrived back and not too happy with me. Well, to end the story, big John Harrison had to try and fit into little Jimmy's clothing, I had to fit into big Johnny's clothing back at base, and the boys back at camp rang up a Northern Territory radio station and got them to play on the radio the song, LITTLE BOY LOST.

That's the story, and I should thank Mick Sarson for making that radio call, John Harrison for standing in, and thank you George for sending the helicopter otherwise Jimmy could today be living with Meri.

JIM DUNN

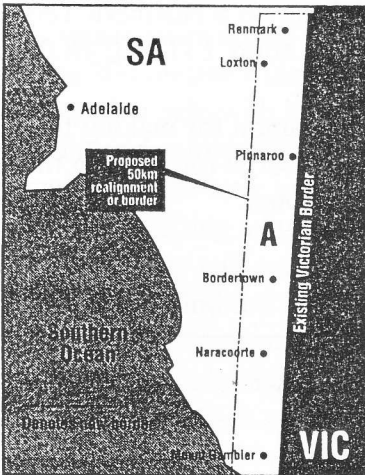
Proposed Realignment of the Victorian/ South Australian Border

The border controversy still rages. Before rushing to the C.O.R.S.N.A. group, check the day that the advertisement was published.

South Australia is under the hammer. Recent outsourcing and privatisation of utilities could be avoided.

South Australia needs a shot in the arm and the simple transfer of ownership to Victoria of a 50 kilometre strip of South Australia adjacent to the S.A./VIC border could provide an economic windfall to all South Australians.

C.O.R.S.N.A., (The Coalition for the Realignment of the South/North Axis) is a group of concerned South Australians that believes a fairly negotiated realignment of the South Australian/Victorian Border will alleviate immediate and undue pressure on the S.A. Treasury and provide an unprecedented economic advantage for the entire state.



Over \$5500 for every South Australian.

A proposed one-off payment of \$8.2 billion dollars would mean every man, woman and child currently residing in South Australia would be better off by \$5,742.55 each. Parting with this inconsequential strip of land will be beneficial for the majority of South Australians.

S.A. jobless figures reduced.

Credit debts could be retired, mortgages paid out, private health insur-

ance restored and unemployment figures drastically reduced.

Some modifications to current practices may inadvertently affect a few people. As cities and towns situated in the portion marked (A) on the plan below will be located in Victoria, they will fall under that states' judicial laws and policies.

Minimal changes necessary.

Although the blood alcohol limit in these cities and towns will remain the same, local council districts will be restructured, quarantine regulations modified, public holidays changed, rates and taxes altered, and any SANFL, Adelaide Crows or Port Power football players who originate from any of these towns will be seconded by Victorian clubs.

We are sure you will agree, these changes are minimal and a livable sacrifice for the betterment of our states' future.

Economically, the transfer of this part of South Australia will have little or no effect on South Australia's trade balance.

Apart from minimal returns from marginal crops such as wheat and barley and a few sheep and cattle, major income sources such as grapes and tuna will be unaffected.

Attractive incentives offered.

Residents in the proposed transfer zone will be provided with generous incentives to transfer their allegiance to the state of Victoria including free gold passes to the Grand Prix, reserve seats for the AFL Grand Final in 2000 and \$500 worth of Crown Casino chips to be cashed in the proceeding three months.

Recently, the Premier of Victoria has shown a propensity for coveting the assets of South Australia and this proposal has already created great interest in our neighbouring state.

To register your interest, call the C.O.R.S.N.A. Hotline.

1800 033 231

People News

During my recent holiday on the Gold Coast I managed to spend several days in Brisbane. Whilst there I was able to catch up with a few Ex-Survey people.

I had lunch at the Breakfast Creek Hotel with Derek and Sandy Stanmore. Derek after doing several jobs within the Information Technology field is now working with Queensland Railways. He is a Project Leader within the IT Department. Sandy has bought a hair dressing salon and is currently going to a Hair Dressing College. May I add that a charcoal grilled steak at the Breakie Creek Pub is highly recommended.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to Paul Hope's 40th birthday party which was held in an Italian restaurant at Alderley and then continued back at his house at Michelton. Paul is still doing contract work for the Brisbane City Council in the "Valley" as a GIS Support Officer.

Several other Ex-Survey people attended the party, and during the night many names were brought up in conversation. However, I must confess my recall a night "sipping" red wine is not the best.

John "Toad" Smith and his ^{wife} Robin attended and he still works for the Brisbane City Council as a GIS Support Officer.

Jamie "Fish" McRae and his wife Leeanne were also there and he is employed by DNR at Woollongabba as an Information Integration Officer.

Other names mentioned were:

Greg Buckenham. Is still working for the Sunshine Coast Coolum Council in the Survey field.

Derek Chambers. Still employed in the Insurance Brokerage industry in Brisbane

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- John Hook . Is involved in Property Management some were in Fortitude Valley.
- Graham Baker. Is working for the Australian New Zealand Land Information Council.
- Peter Tangey. "Twig" has bought a newer and bigger ute and the handyman business is thriving
- George Timmins and Barry Lutwyche .
"GT" and Barry's circumstances I couldn't confirm. However, rumour has it that George may have returned to Swan Hill (?) And that Barry is a house husband (?).
- Bruce Gordon . "Stretch" is still driving buses in Brisbane.
- Lyn Johnson . Is now living in Brisbane and working as a Customs Officer.
- Perry Burt . Aero trig Operator for Airsearch in Brisbane.
- Andy Love . Aero trig Operator for Airsearch in Brisbane
- Quinton Seecamp. Camera Operator for Airsearch in Brisbane.
- Harry Hargreaves . Works at Brisbane Airport for the Federal Airport Corporation (FAC).
- Peter Lefel . Works for the Brisbane Council as a GIS Support Officer.

I did a day trip down the coast road from Runaway Bay (7km North of Surfers Paradise) to Byron Bay and Ballina. Whilst there I went to Wollongbar which is between Ballina and Lismore and had a meal with Brian "Beeps" Partridge and his wife Sue. Brian is well and works as a Supply Officer for ARC Australia. He still plays cricket in the local team and is also involved with the local branch of the RSL.

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Brian advised me that John Gilbert is still living in Toowoomba as a part-time taxi driver. He apparently also works at the Toowoomba Airport in some capacity associated with the aircraft refuelling facilities.

Greg Anderson whom you may remember from the Regiment also lives and works in the drafting field in Toowoomba.

For those who were at the School of Military Survey in the early 1980 may remember an Illustrator Reprographic Instructor called Bruce "Cisco" Ravenscroft. Bruce Corps transferred from Infantry to Survey and was trained as a draftsman. He has now written a book called "Contact - Wait Out, A Vietnam Diary", which is based on his tour of duty with the 7th Battalion in Vietnam. Bruce now resides in Grafton.

Brian also mentioned that Alex Carney who I am told is or was involved in the business of importing antique furniture with his lady friend has now obtained a full TPI pension and still resides in Brisbane.

Steve^o Hinic

Comment

It was with more than passing interest that I went through the article in the last newsletter (No. 21 April 1998) on the Bell 47G-3B-1 Sioux Helicopter.

The entry that caught my eye was "A1-722 7402 A1-236 22/11/68 CR29/11/73 Mt Wilhelm PNG"

This should bring back memories to quite a few "Ex-Members" who were on this PNG Survey Operation and are still living in Adelaide. It was the helicopter that crashed when trying to land near the top of Mt Wilhelm during "Operation Plastic Flagon" in 1973. The pilot was Lt Kevin Shoppe (killed) and the surveyor (injured) was Colin Darch.

The helicopter left main base at Goroka to panel the Trig Stn so that a suitable photo ident could be obtained. I'm sure George Ricketts who was then OC

would recall the accident and subsequent events that followed as would those of us who were in the Op's tent when the news came through.

Going through the remainder of the list of Sioux Helicopters, I wonder what percentage crashed or were damaged whilst involved in survey work.

Steve^o Hinic

Do You Know

I read with interest in the December 97 edition of this magazine that Denis Marshall was leaving Bendigo to live in Victor Harbor. Does anyone know if this in fact has occurred and a contact number for him? This information would be appreciated and could you contact Stevo Hinic on (work) or (home)

More People News

George Ricketts Doing a maintenance task several weeks ago, George badly injured his left arm when he fell from a collapsed platform he was standing on. Requiring a plaster cast for several weeks, the arm is now well on the way to a complete mend, or so George hopes.

Bernie Watson Bernie is now recovering from treatment for a cancer condition and the prognosis is encouraging, although there is a long way to go yet. He reports that he does have some "good days" in amongst the others, so hopefully recovery is on the way.

Ian Campbell Thanks for the letter and subscription Ian. News items included Brett Knuckey visiting Brisbane in late May (an item would be nice, Brett) and Jim Gill is busy running a cleaning business besides being secretary of the local association. Ian mentioned a photo that turned up recently of a fresh faced

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young B9 operator, working in the old Topo Sqn building at Fortuna. No one was able to identify who it was until Ian recognised a youthful Ken Jeffrey, no doubt better looking in those days. Ian sends his regards to one and all and his new address is: PO Box [redacted], Stones Corner, 4120 (ph: [redacted]).

Steve Rose Thanks for the note Steve and yes I would like a copy of the Rose River barge story. After many years working for NT Lands in Darwin, Steve now resides in Queensland at [redacted], Mt Mellam 4552.

Kerry Gallagher Kerry now resides in Caloundra Qld (according to Ian Campbell) and his phone number is [redacted].

Peter Rossiter Thanks for the epistle and money-order, Peter. Your yarns of the past can certainly be used "as is", so more on that later when you receive my reply letters. Peter's phone number is ([redacted]).

Noel Ticehurst Not heard of for some years, Noel now works for ATSE at Fortuna in the photogrammetry section. He also worked on survey projects in Saudi Arabia, joining the numerous ex-corps bods there at the time.

Garry Warnest Garry is presently applying for a new position at ATSE. The newly created job is that of Resources Manager, ousting the position of Chief Cartographer. The name change indicates the change in tasking related to the job, brought about by new technology.

Olive Taylor and Dawn Laing The dainty duo have combined resources and are now touring UK and Ireland, and I suppose will also visit the continent.

Bob Mills Bob no longer works the Adelaide Bank as an internal auditor. The bank has down sized (not their profit margin) their audit section, and outsourced the work. Bob now works for the firm that successfully bid for the job.

AGM 1998

Held in the back room of the Old Queen's Arms Hotel, and opened by President George Ricketts at 2.20 p.m. on Anzac Day.

Present were the Secretary/Treasurer Alex Munro, Bob Love, Doug Bath, Harry Dunn, Nick Dempster, Peter Elverd, Jim Dunn, John Nathan, Stevo Hinic, Bill Love, Bob Dikkenberg, Tony Stephens, Bill Griggs, Dave Irving, Jason Phillips, Angelo Pantelidis, Pat Cox, Allan Adsett and Paul Frost.

Apologies were received from Bob Mills, Brett Knuckey, Bernie Watson, John Zuringer, Colin Van Senden, Frank McMillan, Mal Paterson, Marg Knight, Bob Ballard, Lincoln Smith, Eddy Jacobs, John Harrison, T.J. Wicker, John Scharber, Ken Jeffery, Rob Langley, Bob Cooper, Stan Stevens, Dave Collins, Noel Sproles and John Whitburn.

The main points of interest arising during the meeting, were:-

1. Doug Bath was welcomed by the President.
2. Annual subscriptions were to remain at \$10. p.a. for the year 1999.
3. The Rob Roy Hotel was agreed upon as the venue for the Corps Birthday Dinner.
4. Newsletters received from kindred associations were tabled.
5. Receipts and expenditure for the year were tabled. Association funds stand at \$412.40 unencumbered, and the balance of the history funds stands at \$408.35.
6. The need to further support Val Lovejoy in her request for information for the Fortuna history. Support from ex-members in SA had been fairly poor.
7. Eligibility for the "Active Service Medal 45-75"
8. Clem Sargent's letter re pre-purchasing of the Corps history.
9. The election of office bearers was put on hold, with the present committee to hold office, pending the canvassing of volunteers.
10. An address of appreciation by Doug Bath to the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.55 p.m.

Executive Committee

The Executive committee was not elected at the last AGM, to allow further time to canvass volunteers.

President. We Welcome Bob Cooper as our new president, allowing George Ricketts to stand down after 20 years in the job. Well done George.

Secretary/Treasurer. Now in the capable hands of John (Tj) Wicker and ably assisted by Dave Irving. Welcome to both. Alex Munro has relinquished the position after 18 years.

The new executive was approved by general consensus of members during the Corps Birthday Dinner, and contact addresses, etc, will be published when the hand over is completed.

Tony Stephens has kindly offered to type/set out our newsletter, now that Bob Mills and Jim Dunn are unable to do the job. My thanks to all.

George and I will remain very active within the Association, particularly regarding the newsletter and unit history.

Survey Corps History

As previously noted in previous newsletters, the Corps history is being researched and written by Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, in Canberra. I understand that the task will be fairly well advanced by late this year, to the extent that the publishing aspects of the history can be planned. To cover these costs of printing, etc, it is intended to raise the necessary finance by pre-publication sales of the history. The estimated pre-publication cost is about \$30-\$40, with a post publication cost of about \$60, so buying in advance is the way to go.

If you have not already done so, let me know if you desire a copy of the pre-publication price. At this stage there is no obligation to buy, should circumstances change. When a firm price is know, you will be contacted again with necessary details. All replies to Alex Munro.

Sapper News (RAE Newsletter)

Browsing through the latest copy, it would seem that former RASVY persons remaining in the service, have integrated well into RAE. I noticed that Rhys Delaine has been promoted to WO1 and there is mention of Andy Capp (20 yrs), Jim Gill (22 yrs), Barry Lutwyche (25 yrs) and George Timmins (29 yrs) leaving the service.

There was also an obituary for the late Hugh Taylor. Following on are two articles that I hope are of interest containing survey content, giving an insight into the new-look Army. The first article is by WO2 Ian Nichols describing the very first basic survey course held at SME and the second article covers the activities of 1 Topo Svy Sqn.

Eight students marched out of the School of Military Engineering (SME) on 30 March 1998 after graduating from the inaugural Technician Geomatic Basic Course. This was the first Basic course completed since the integration of the Royal Australian Survey Corps into the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) in 1996. The Technician Geomatic trade was created from the amalgamation of three topographical mapping trades after a restructure of the Army's mapping capability.

The Geomatic Engineering Wing (GEW) of SME is now responsible for training the Army's surveyors following the closure of the School of Military Survey after the Corps integration.

The training of the basic Technician Geomatic takes eight months to complete, during which time students are taught elements of the old Survey trades, as well as new skills required for the Geomatic trade of today.

The students were instructed in a vast array of principles including Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems, Terrestrial Surveying, manual and digital Cartography, 35 mm and digital camera usage, a

basic introduction to Photogrammetry, as well as large format film processing and Lithographic Platemaking.

During the course, a 12 day field exercise was held at Binalong, to practice the students in deployment procedures and confirm the skills they acquired throughout the course.

Some of the students were on courses for 13 months before marching into their first unit. The courses included 11 weeks recruit training, two weeks driver training, four weeks Initial Employment Training and finally 32 weeks on the Technicians Geomatic Basic Course.

From the eight students who graduated, one was undertaking conversion training, two were trade transferring within RAE, two were Corps transferees and three had recently graduated from recruit training at Kapooka. All graduates have now assumed their postings with 1st Topographical Survey Squadron.

A March Out parade was held at SME by GEW with the School's Commanding Officer, LTCOL R.A. Wright, CSM, reviewing. During the parade, awards were presented to Sapper Wilkinson for the Student of Merit, and Lance Corporal Muzeen as the Most Improved student. ■

1st Topographical Survey Squadron



The last three months of 1997 saw the Squadron updating mapping coverage of Bougainville, prior to the first deployment on Operation Bel Isi.

This involved the con-

version of the existing maps from ADG66 to WGS84 to allow easier use with Global Positioning Systems receivers, some updating of information and then printing of new maps. The task required the return to the old Survey Corps 'shift mode' production method (much like being confined to barracks) and resulted in the creation of 23 1:50 000 and eight 1:100 000 maps, each of which took approximately 90 operator hours to edit prior to printing. The printing was completed in-house and at the Army Topographical Survey Establishment. The task made for a well earned Christmas leave break, more so because of the rough time promised for 1998.

1998 kicked off with induction training at Squadron and Troop level. This has been followed by an ongoing series of unit

briefs and demonstrations as the Squadron, together with Brigade and Task Force Topographic Advisers, attempts to educate the remainder of the Army on what geomatic engineers can do for them. However, the lack of digitised coverage of Australia certainly is not making it easy.

Much of the Squadron's effort now is in data preparation for many of the exercises to be supported this year, with emphasis on the Restructuring the Army Trials and the building of data layers for battle maps for the Battlefield Command Support System (BCSS). The Squadron is also conducting a series of internal ArcView courses. This software allows for the user-friendly manipulation of geospatial information and is already widely used in Australia, the United States and United Kingdom. In conjunction with the School of Military Engineering the Squadron will be hosting the last ever air camera course in May 1998 which will provide a few with extensive frequent flyer points and the Squadron with new snaps to add to the database.

In preparation for the deployment season, Formation Troop has completed its own shake-out exercise. Their first support task is in late April with 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment on Exercise Cata, closely followed by Exercise Tasman Link in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. Differential Global Positioning Systems support will also be provided to the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment indirect fire support exercise in June 1998. The second half of the year will involve further deployments for Exercise Phoenix and Command Post Exercise support to Exercise Silicon Safari. Force Troop will have its Military Geographic Information detachment out with the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters as often as possible and Data Support Troop will be preparing the data bases for all others to utilise.

VALE

PETER CONSTANTINE

It is with considerable sadness that the death of Peter is now reported. He died in a Perth nursing home on Saturday 25 July 1998. Peter had been suffering with a form of dementia for several years, causing a decline in his general physical condition over time, and did not have the strength to fight off a prevalent viral condition with which he recently became infected.

He joined the army about 1950, coming into the Corps as a Sapper. After basic training he served in various postings around Australia and reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by retirement about 1983.

Significant postings were as OC of 1 Div Topo Tp in Vietnam, CO of the Army Survey Regt and CO of SMS at Bonegilla, from where he retired back to his home state of WA, ending a remarkable career.

He once told me that his decision to join the Army was sudden. As a lad at the time he was working in a country bank, which failed to satisfy his longing for travel and adventure, so deciding a life in the Army was the way to go, failed to turn up for work next day, but instead headed for the nearest recruiting centre. His send off party from Bonegilla on retirement was something to remember also, lasting about 16 hours solid except for a break between 3-7 am the following morning.

Peter will be remembered for a long time yet, as survey bods gather over time and swap reminiscences.

Our condolences are extended to Peter's daughters.

POSTSCRIPT

Our roving reporter, that travelling man Colin van Senden, recently attended the unveiling of a plaque to honour surveyor- explorer John McDouall Stuart, at Curdimurka Railway Siding on the Oodnadatta Track. Details will appear in our next issue.

George Timmins rang on a Saturday morning recently to become a member of our Association. George has a house in Swan Hill, but will probably spend more time fishing than at home, now that he has left 1 Topo Sqn after 29 years ARA service. His mobile 'phone number is

Wally Mooney has shifted house to a unit at Glynde. His present 'phone number is

Bob Mills. At long last after 35 years combined service in the regular army and reserves, Bob finally discharged in early August 1998. Well done.

Vale-Dave Cook

Dave was killed when involved in an accident while riding his motor-cycle in Darwin about 29th July 1998. He worked for Air Research at the time. A service was held in Darwin on Saturday 1st August and again the following Saturday in his hometown Corowa. A tragedy for one so comparatively young. Details are sparse but were reported by Ken Talbot-Smith.