



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No 26
DECEMBER 1999

SOCIAL NEWS

Remember our First Friday Drinks at the Old Queens Arms in Wright St. each month on the first Friday. The first for 2000 will be on the 4th of February, giving January a miss with so many on holidays.

During 1999 these gatherings were a mixed lot ranging from only one person turning up to fourteen on another occasion, however the dates this year were a bit strange, often coinciding with other functions or holiday week-ends like Easter. If in the city on a first Friday between 5 and 6pm, please make the effort to attend.

How about it for the two Bobs, Chuck and Dikko, not to mention one or two others.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Held as usual at the Rob Roy Hotel in Halifax St., on Saturday 27th. November, a bit earlier than previous years but bookings are difficult to come by close to Christmas. Meeting at around 7pm in the saloon bar for pre-dinner drinks was a bit of a squeeze, as about three cricket teams had piled into the bar after playing in the nearby parklands. Not too much of a worry though. When finally seated in the dining room the three course meal served was very good, and followed by coffee and mince pies was sufficient enough for the occasion.

The Christmas bon bons provided didn't go off with a bang as expected, which is about normal, but the party hats inside were not popular anyway.

During the evening, secretary John Wicker read out the apologies received and president Bob Cooper addressed the gathering, wishing all a pleasant night and a Very Merry Christmas. He had to jack up the old tonsils a bit to be heard above the din coming from the saloon bar, as about fifty or so Saturday night revellers, all shouting and yahooping at the same time, had just invaded the bar enroute during a pub crawl, I would say, but enjoying themselves.

Desi Asaris called in to say hullo later in the night, after attending another function. The last departed well after midnight ending what I thought was a pretty good night, so I hope every one enjoyed themselves. About six or so returned to the Hinic Ranch with Stevo and Pauline to party on, and I also heard that a certain Riverland Lad turned a \$15 cab fare into a \$25 fare looking for a pub to buy a bottle of Scotch, well after mid-night.

Christmas Function.

Just for the record , attendance for the night was forty-eight.

It was great to see a few visitors from interstate; George Timmins from Swan Hill, Mick Davies from Bendigo and Lesley and Peter Presser from Koorlong near Mildura. Others attending were Lea and John Wicker, Dell and Tony Balkauskas from Stansbury, Graeme Ragless, Andy Capp, Lorraine and Ken Talbot-Smith, Pauline and Stevo Hinic, Jan and Bill Griggs, Dennis Marshall from Victor Harbour, Joanne and John Scharber, Rhonda and Bob Cooper, Dianne and Peter Davis, Julie and Rob Langley, Pam and John Harrison, Jane and Brett Knuckey from Birdwood, Pauline and Ken Jeffery, Rhonda and Mick Dempster, Elizabeth and Bill Love, Moyna Briggs, Rita and Jim Dunn, Joan and Alex Munro, Janine and Max Coletti, John Frith, Mark Bates, Dave Irving, Vicky and Angelo Pantelidis. Apologies were received from Robin Wilson, Bob Mills, Mick Hansen, George Ricketts, Eva Gruszka and Ted Bear. Hopefully I have not missed any one.

REPLACEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUIRED

T.J is taking long service leave next year, so is standing down from his position as our secretary / treasurer at the AGM next Anzac Day. Dave Irving has kindly agreed to take over but will need an assistant.

The duties involved are not onerous, and will certainly not bog down anyone, so please consider our need. The aim is to change members every two years or so, so it's not forever. Give it some thought and contact either T.J. or Dave for more info. Be in it boys.

FORTUNA FOR SALE (Again)

According to an article in the Bendigo Advertiser of about a month back Fortuna might be on the market again, but I have no other details at this stage. This proposal comes up every few years and would be the third time in well over twenty years that I can remember.

It would be hard to imagine the facilities at Fortuna being moved out of Bendigo, considering the political clout in the district. Famous last words perhaps, but hopefully not.

LAST FRIDAY IN BRISBANE

The Qld. Association meet at the Alderly Arms Hotel at Enoggera, Brisbane, on the last Friday of each month between 5-7pm. Stevo Hinic recommends the place. All travelling up that way are welcome to attend.

TARLEE BASELINE RESTORATION PROJECT.

John Harrison is presently trying to organise assistance to complete the project. John is the honorary secretary of the Institute of Engineering and Mining Surveyors, an organisation attempting to maintain the historical significance of old survey works throughout South Australia.

The current project is to possibly renovate the original groundmarks and to erect a cairn with an inscribed plaque, somewhere on a main road at a point closest to the baseline. The final plan will depend on the recce yet to be done. Some assistance has been offered by Government and private survey agencies but more is needed. Although the total cash required is not huge, donations are needed, so don't hold back. As well as cash, volunteer labour is also needed, so if you can help out in some way, please contact John on telephone

The Tarlee Baseline was surveyed in the late 1930's, by members of the Survey Corps and is worthy of preservation.

A recent project by Institute members was the renovation of the grave site of former Surveyor-General for S.A., G. W. Goyder, of Goyder's Line fame. He was buried 101 years ago at Stirling East.

ARMY SURVEY REGIMENT HISTORY.

Historian Val Lovejoy is still working on the history but has made good progress overall, to the stage where the first draft copy has been produced and is now being read and edited. Val reports that the last chapter covering the last ten years still has a lot of work yet to be done, but the biggest problem will be what to prune from the previous chapters which she considers are far too long, given the amount of information collected.

Unfortunately the history committee is still about 4000 dollars short of the amount required to complete the project, so any donation at all to Garry Warnest would be appreciated, c/o the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association, P.O. Box 1004, Bendigo Vic. 3552.

FORTUNA VILLA CONSERVATORY

Better known as the Glasshouse, it was recently renovated.

The famous stained glass windows were discovered to be inside out or whatever, and the sides that were supposed to be inside were on the outside, but no apparent harm was done it seems as the surfaces had weathered well. During W.W.2 the windows were removed for some reason, and the inside out situation happened when they were replaced.

Another interesting aspect of the windows came to light in that some of the Australiana depicted had odd shapes. This was due to the makers in England when the windows were made last century, not having much of an idea of the shape of things Australian, but gave it their best shot anyway. I heard all this second hand, so I hope it's right.

From Magna Carta I read that the old corrugated iron shed of W.W.2 vintage just below the Glasshouse is now demolished, Nothing's forever. One end was the gardener's hide-out, while the other end was the Picquet Hut, where countless picquets over the years boiled during the summer and froze during the winter.

DEMISE OF SME.

On 10th December 1999 the School of Military Engineering will be disestablished, and cease to be a separate unit on the Army's Order of Battle. The day will be marked by a final parade at their headquarters at Moorebank, after sixty years of proud achievement.

The school will become part of the Army Combat Arms Training Centre located at Puckapunyal, incorporating the Schools of Armour, Artillery, Engineering and Infantry. SME is renamed the

Mobility/Survivability Division of the training centre.

The amalgamation of the various schools at Pucka is intended to achieve greater cooperation in training with the main combat corps.

CORPS HISTORY

It appears the final draft of the history is now well advanced, with Oxford University Press engaged to do the printing. I understand a publication date has been set for next Anzac Day. The pre-publication price is expected to be around \$50, and firm offers to purchase will be canvassed nearer the time, including those who have already indicated.

VALE

Steve McConnachie : Steve died on 16 November this year, at his home in Bendigo. He was just short of his 70th. birthday and it was hoped that he would see the year through, but his cancer condition was just too much to fight off. Knowing he didn't have long, Steve was able to choose his Pall Bearers and ask Tom Royle to give the eulogy at his service. A service was held at St. Mary's Church at Golden Square, followed by another at the Bendigo Crematorium Chapel at Neangar Park, which was very well attended.

Steve worked at Fortuna as a cartographer for well over 20 years, and was well regarded for his professional approach to map making. After his discharge about 1969, he successfully operated a cartographic services business for many years in Bendigo. He will be sadly missed at the Ex-Fortuna Association functions, where he was a regular visitor.

Bob Jones : Better known as Spike, he died in a Perth hospital on 8th. October this year, aged 66 years. Bob had not been in top health for some years, and had gone into hospital to have an operation for throat cancer, which was a success and everything seemed fine, except he later had a heart attack which proved too much in his weakened condition. Bob originally enlisted in Infantry and served in Japan before transferring to Survey in 1957. Most of his field survey years were spent in W.A., but he also served at the School of Military Survey as an instructor, both at Balcombe and at Bonegilla in the mid sixties and later was posted to Vietnam in 1968/9. He was regarded very highly by his peers, not only as a character but also for his expertise in survey computations. Bob left the Corps in the late seventies, after about 26 years service, retiring to the life of a gentleman in civvy street, and becoming for some years commodore of the Swan Yacht Club. He was cremated after a service held in Fremantle, and his ashes scattered on the nearby Swan River. Bob will be missed.

From Magna Carto : Former Corps members who have passed on.

Les (Snow) Taylor at Wollongong on 11th. May 1999.

Kevin McQuire in Canberra in late December 1998.

Daryl Carr in Tasmania on 27th. August 1999.

"Ozzie" Barrett (Ex-sailor from the RAEME Hut) on 18th. August 1999 in Bendigo

John Rankine's wife, Joan, on 16th. April 1999 at Shepparton.

WHO CAN REMEMBER JOHNNO

For those who knew Johnno, how could you ever forget the lad.

Always a character, he served at Keswick with 4 Fd Svy for around four years, and even in his wildest dreams would not have imagined appearing in the national press. The article was published in the Adelaide Advertiser and other papers around Australia. You do us proud Johnno.

Thirsty Diggers' day in the sun

By SIMON PRISTEL
in Dili

NOT even a sighting of a saltwater crocodile could stop the Australian troops enjoying their first day of rest and recreation in East Timor in more than a month.

Sun, surf and beach volleyball was the most popular pastime yesterday, not just for the Australians but also soldiers from the other 19 nations securing peace in the strife-torn territory.

And for some of the troops, the day off coincided with the first day of daily fresh food, instead of canned and packaged army rations.

Unfortunately, the Australians long awaited beer ration of "two cans per man per day" was delayed another day or two for "logistical" reasons.

"I think there is a bit of pressure from the Aussies because the Poms have been drinking for weeks," said one thirsty Digger.

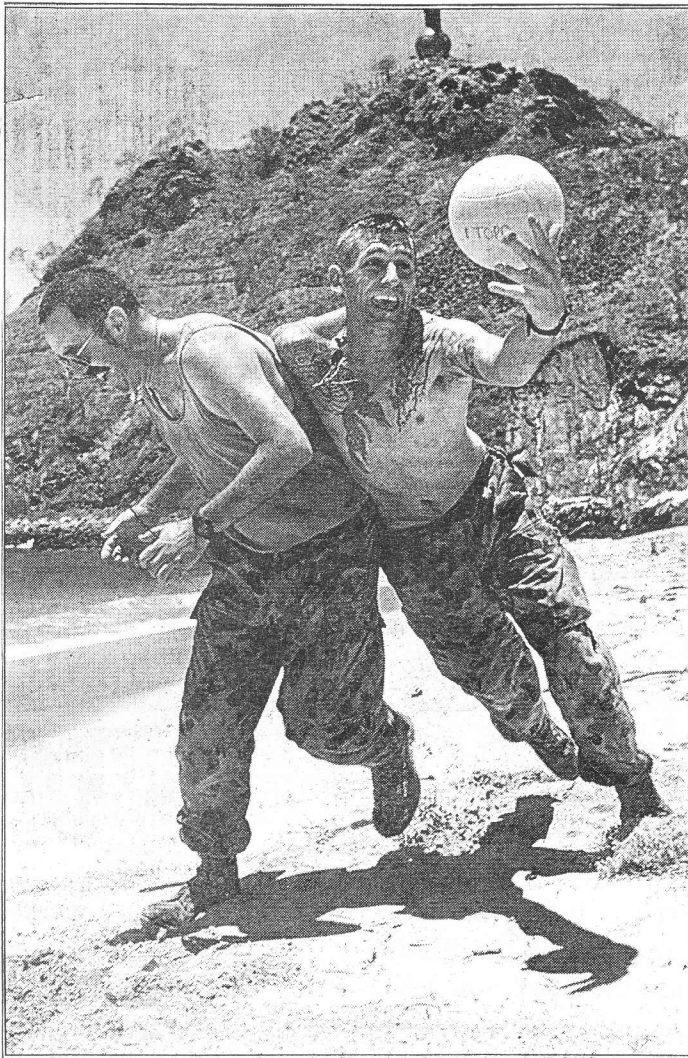
But Interfet commander Major General Peter Cosgrove has promised his Australian troops "they will all be getting what I think all hard working Aussies deserve, that's a beer when it is appropriate to have one."

Army surveyor Lance Corporal Terry Malone, of Ballarat in Victoria, is looking to set up his own bar in Dili - "Malone's Bar" - to cash in on the thirsty aid workers, soldiers and expected construction workers.

After beach volleyball, Sergeant Brian Johnson, of Foster in Victoria, relaxed by writing some letters home and catching up on sleep.

"There's been too much

Rest and recreation, but still no beer



TIME OUT: It was volleyball for Victorians Sergeant Brian Johnson and Lance Corporal Terry Malone. Picture: JOHN FEDER

work to be bored," he said. "They have been working from 5.30am to 6pm.

"We are usually in bed by 7pm."

Other troops relaxed by playing Playstation, computer games, cards and watched movies at the university "Scarry ones to keep us on

edge," said Sergeant Johnson.

Private Mohammad Mashayekh of Mosman in Sydney spent the day cutting the local childrens' hair.

Many troops have befriended the local children, giving them leftover rations and helping out where they can.

PEOPLE NEWS

"T.J." Wicker : T.J. is taking eight months leave from Consumer Affairs next year, starting about April, and returning to work in January 2001. He and Lea intend to travel around Australia in a 4WD. vehicle, yet to be selected, and towing a caravan which has been chosen. They have no set itinerary, other than to keep moving on, and stopping whenever they like for as long as they like. A nice way to go. T.J. hopes to try his hand out (or back) at some seasonal fruit-picking along the way, just for extra petrol money and interest. They hope to drive to Nhulunbuy (used to be called Gove) at the north-east of Arnhem Land on the Gulf of Carpentaria, as part of the trip. The road branches out just south from Katherine, passing through Kakadu and Oenpelli, then Arnhem Land for which an entry permit is required, however, the precious permit has been obtained. If anyone intends planning a quick trip, forget it, as entry permits can take up to a year to obtain, according to T.J. The best of luck to both and hope the trip is everything you wish for.

Dave Wicker : Dave and Dianne have happily settled close to Benalla, Vic, with their family and grand-children not far away. Dave commutes to Mansfield each day, where he works at the Mitre 10 hardware store. For a few years I used to see Dave pass through Adelaide, enroute to Borroloola for his annual fishing trip , but not for a long time now.

Peter Presser : It doesn't seem all that long ago that I worked with a skinny young sapper in the glasshouse at Fortuna, but Peter has beefed out a bit since then, and now tells me that son Jamie has enlisted in the RAAF. and is now training at Wagga Wagga in avionics, and his other son Marcus is in his 3rd year at university studying mechanical engineering. Peter's rowing team won the wooden spoon at the Masters Games held in Spain a few months back, but had a great time just the same. Thanks for the letter Peter and Lesley, and also info on the following two bods.

David (Blue) Averay : Blue now lives in Castlemaine, Vic., but nothing else is known. Not all that far from Bendigo so someone should know more.

PEOPLE NEWS

Mario Zappula ; Mario manages the Midland Private Hotel at Castlemaine, situated in Templeton Crescent, telephone 03 54721085. An excellent place for a naughty weekend and a visit to the area, so Peter reckons. Mario is married to Anne and they have two children, Albert and Zara.

Ian Thomson : Ian sends his regards to old mates in Adelaide and reports that he is feeling on top of the world at present. Thanks for the subs Ian.

Steve Rose : Received a letter from Steve including the story of a celebrated incident back in the late fifties when a wooden barge being used on survey operations sank in the Gulf of Carpentaria, but more on that in a later edition. Steve was awarded an Emeritus Certificate as a Licenced Surveyor in May, although now retired and living in Mt. Mellam, Qld. He still maintains an active lifestyle as a member of the Association of Independent Retirees and finds plenty to do around his new house since moving from Darwin, where his former home is still up for sale. Plenty of rain up that way Steve reports, with 2.5 metres recorded up to September, which has hindered outside renovations a bit. While building a workshop he injured an eye, which has needed specialist attention and an operation, and hopefully leading to a full recovery. His hi-tech email address is

steve-austen @

Fax

Phone

Thanks for the letter and subs Steve.

John Phillips : Posted to Darwin as a WO1 about two years ago, I understand he has been involved in the thematic side of mapping.

Noel Sproles : Now Dr. Noel, so well done, after years of hard study he recently completed his PhD., and is now at the Levels Campus of the University of S.A. He does some work with the Dept. of Science and Technology Organisation at nearby Salisbury, and sees Bob Williams at odd times. Noel was in Darwin a month or two back visiting Larrakeyah Barracks, and later on return, told me about the changes to accommodation standards for the modern soldier up there, but more on that later.

PEOPLE NEWS

Alex Czornohalan : Alex recently had an operation to clear his nasal airways, which worked out well I am glad to report, making Alex a much happier lad.

Barry Lutwyche : Barry and his two sons, Stephen and John, are now on holidays in Tasmania, staying with Barry's mother. They drove down from Queensland, blowing two tyres along the way, but otherwise the trip was uneventful. An overnight stay at the Bendigo Caravan Park was included in the itinerary, to meet up with George Timmins from Swan Hill and local lads Rusty Williams, Trevor Poll and Mick Davey. No doubt one or two ales were put away. Thanks for the card Barry and the subs.

From Magna Carto : Al Staley now works with Natural Resources and environment in Albury. Dennis Marshall celebrated his 50th birthday in Melbourne with a few ex-Fortuna boys. Maj. Peter Clark has now taken his discharge and joins Brad Pepler in Brisbane at ERIS Australia, managed by Bill Jones. Rob Bogumil has moved out from the printing industry, and now manages a rural produce store in Bendigo. Ralph Chant has left Coliban Water after many years, and now works at the Australian Defence Industries set-up in Bendigo, on the new all-terrain vehicle project. Nick Van Dalen runs a building restoration business treating rising dampness and has just finished treating the Bendigo Town Hall. Paul Hunter is leaving Bendigo for Lismore, with mapping contractor Aspect North. Roger Green who served at Fortuna 1970 to 76, is now a Licenced Surveyor with a firm in Doveton, Vic. Garry Warnest, Stuart Midgley, Graeme Wastell, Colin and Mazz Cuskelly, Sherri Burke, Andrew Quin, Rob Jones and Dave Murphy (back from Brunei) now all work at Intergraph Mapping Services Bendigo. Doug Mulligan now 72, visited ATSE last May, and was welcomed by those still there from Doug's time at Fortuna. A great bloke who could always be relied upon, when help was needed.

From Westlink (WA.) Bob Wood, now retired, lives in Busselton where he manages the local State Emergency Service. Cliff Webb and son Adrian are working in Darwin, surveying at the RAAF base, and staying with Brian Cosford and his family. Brian Cosford is presently working in Darwin as a civil design draftsman with Connell Wagner.

PEOPLE NEWS

From Westlink : Jim Kernaghan is the proprietor of Survey Instruments in Wodonga, Vic. Barry and Helen Parker are presently in America visiting relatives. Phil Bray has been working in Bangladesh on a U.N. sponsored mapping project, for the Bureau of Statistics. Don and Margaret Taylor visited Darwin on holidays and met up with Steve Glouster. Don recently had an operation for cancer and spent some time in hospital recuperating, and I understand his condition is very serious. Let,s hope there is brighter news soon. Lance Barrell is enjoying civilian life as a househusband,and is fully committed to junior baseball as a coach.

SICK LIST

George Ricketts is progressing slowly but surely in recovering from his stroke of almost five months ago. He still needs weekly sessions of speech therapy and physiotherapy but is improving steadily, and can now carry on a pretty good conversation and walk around, although still a little on the slow side as yet. He was able to visit the local supermarket a few days ago, his first shopping trip for a long time, so we all hope the improvement continues. The main concern is George,s eyesight,in that he has lost a fair amount of side vision and has trouble focusing on very close objects, so although still unable to read the newspapers he can at least watch television well enough. At our Xmas function numerous friends asked me to pass on their regards to you George, so all the best.

MODERN STANDARDS

Noel Sproles visited Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin a few months ago,and was impressed with the standard of accommodation there for the private soldier. Each soldier has his own room with private facilities,and while this might be the way of the future, does it promote camaraderie or Esprit de Corps amongst young soldiers.

When Central Command Field Survey Section first went to Darwin in 1957 to start mapping operations in the Top End,under the late J.K.Nolan, it was based at Larrakeyah. Sappers lived upstairs in two-storey open dormitory blocks, with an ablution area at one end downstairs,with plenty of fresh air as there were no windows as such but solid wooden louvres instead, to open and shut according to the weather. We lived, worked and played-up together, and we all loved it,however, I doubt if anyone would have knocked back an offer of the present accommodation, so it's not a case of sour grapes.

RETURN TO ROXBY DOWNS

John Showers has just published an account of his experiences in the Roxby Downs area of far north South Australia. The book is entitled 'Return to Roxby Downs' and makes very interesting reading of the history of the area in modern times, and comes recommended.

His reminiscences begin in 1947 as a young sapper in the Survey Corps working alongside the late Len Beadell and Frank Cohen, amongst others, establishing initial survey control in the area. Frank now lives in Swanbourne, W.A. Following his survey experiences in the Corps, John later returned to the area as a civil engineer with Western Mining until 1977, establishing the necessary infrastructure surveys for the present Roxby Downs mining operations.

Asked to return in 1979 by Western Mining for a three month stint, John remained a further thirteen years, so his book covers the period from 1947 until about 1992 or so.

The book is introduced with a foreword by Sir Arvi Parbo, one-time head of Western Mining and BHP.

Now available from Book-End Books of 136 Unley Rd, Unley, 5063, (Tel. 08 82710050) for \$19.95 plus \$3 postage. A book launch has been planned at Dymocks Books, Rundle St., on 28th. January next year. Good luck John.

EVERY FRIDAY AT FORTUNA

The old OR's boozier at Fortuna only serves liquor now on a Friday at around 5pm for an hour or so, as a once a week get-together for the ATSE crowd. If visiting Bendigo you are welcome to join in the fun.

THE MISSING TABLE CLOTH From Westlink

Frank Cohen can remember that when working north of the present town of Woomera back in 1948, the survey team were operating out of Mt. Eba Station. The property owner's wife asked all the surveyors to sign a tablecloth, which she then embroidered for posterity.

Although a very long shot, Frank would appreciate any information as to the whereabouts of that tablecloth.



WITH BEST WISHES FOR

THE NEW YEAR

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
BOB COOPER

SOMERTON PARK S.A. 5044
Telephone

SECRETARY/TREASURER
JOHN(T.J.)WICKER

BLAIR ATHOL S.A. 5084
Telephone

ASST.SECRETARY/TREASURER
DAVE IRVING

TRANMERE S.A. 5073
Telephone

NEWS LETTER
ALEX MUNRO

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS S.A. 5041
Telephone

GEORGE RICKETTS

GLEN OSMOND S.A. 5064
Telephone