



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No 33
DECEMBER 2002

Newsletter No 33

Another year almost over and this publication is only the second, so one short for the year. Hopefully we'll be back to our three editions in 2003.

I still need a lot more local content, so please put your mind to it and produce an article in the coming new year. Pretty please.

My thanks to those members who have sent me something to print, for without their help, the task would be extremely difficult. Thank you again.

On behalf of your committee I take this opportunity to wish all our members a

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Social News

Remember our First Friday Drinks at the Queens Arms Hotel each month. A few generally turn up each time still, although the numbers vary, but keep it in mind though. As usual, give the first Friday in January 2003 a miss. Some thought is being given to changing the venue, as the clientele and the noise level has changed lately, but nothing is definite as yet.

Remember our Christmas Dinner at the Rob Roy Hotel on Saturday 14th December. If you have not returned your reply circular to Dave Irving by this, please do so now. The hotel management is fairly flexible, and would probably gladly take acceptances right to the day. At the moment George Timmins from Swan Hill and Mick Davey from Bendigo will be attending, so hope to see you there.

The book launch of the regiment history –Mapmakers of Fortuna- is set for Friday 21st March 2003 at a 5pm civic reception at the Bendigo Town Hall, followed by drinks and a buffet dinner at the RSL Servicemen's Club. A BBQ lunch is planned for the Saturday. Mark your diary now, but I assume more details will follow.

Bendigo RSL Dinner

I attended the annual dinner of the Bendigo RSL at the clubhouse on Havilah Rd in early November last. Imagine my surprise on arrival to find that no less than 19 members of the old Fortuna crowd were also there. It was a great opportunity to catch up with a few people I had not seen for ages, adding to a very enjoyable function.

I cannot recall everyone, but I do remember seeing Warren Chadwick, Bob Garrity, Mick Flynn, John Phillips, Garry Warnest, Rhys Delaine, Stu Symonds, Brett Van Leeuwin, Harry Mai and Rusty Williams.

Military Museum / Survey Company Photograph

The Bendigo RSL has assembled an impressive display of military memorabilia, donated by members throughout central Victoria.

The collection is displayed at their Pall Mall premises, and is worth a visit if in Bendigo. Browsing thru the place on my recent visit, I saw a photograph of the 2/1st Field Survey Company RAE, taken at Sarafand in the Middle East in May 1941, but with no other information.

I thought a mention might be of interest to our WW2 members

Other "Survey Corps"

Regarding the article on Mapping in the Red Army by Noel Sproles, I remember attending a formal dinner at SMS Bonegilla in 1967, at which the late Tony Ellis was called upon to propose a toast to the Corps. In his preamble, Tony made the interesting claim that beside Australia, only two other countries in the world had autonomous survey organizations within their defence forces, namely Russia and China.

That was then of course, and although the situation in Australia has changed whereby RASVY no longer exists, I wonder if similar changes have been made in the other two countries. I doubt it.

Mapping in the Red Army

A Review by Noel Sproles

During the time of the cold war, the Soviet Union released little if any information about the organisation and internal workings of the Red Army during World War II. However, now that the cold war is over, the Russian Federation has opened up its archives and it is possible to get access to documents that provide interesting details about the management of the Soviet war effort. Colonel David Glantz, a retired US Army officer, has translated many of these documents and has published them in a set of three volumes. The second volume, 'Central Command and Control Organs and Leaders' provides a brief glimpse of the wartime activities of the Red Army's Topographical Service.

The Soviets apparently were appreciative of the importance of mapping as the military-topographical service was the 8th Directorate of the General Staff up to the beginning of the war. In mid 1941 all non-operational directorates were removed from the General Staff in order that it could concentrate on important operational matters. It is significant that the military topographical service was not removed but remained as the 6th Directorate along with other directorates such as Operations and Intelligence. In a document approved by Stalin himself in August 1941, the General Staff was charged, *inter alia*, with 'Supervising the Red Army's military-topographical service and supplying the Red Army with topographical maps'.

On page 158, Colonel Glantz provides a brief summary of the service's activities during the war. In the paragraph titled 'MILITARY TOPOGRAPHY' he notes that:

The General Staff's **Military-Topographical Directorate** [*Voennotopograficheskie upravleniye -VTU*] was responsible for preparing, maintaining, and distributing all maps for the Red Army at every level of command. This included strategic-scale maps for Stavka and General Staff use, operational maps of 1:200,000 scale, and tactical maps of 1: 100,000 and 1: 50,000 scale for corps, divisions, and regiments. The directorate created maps in wartime using survey and

Mapping in the Red Army

aerial observation. Among the wartime chiefs of this directorate was Lieutenant General M. K. Kudriavtsev

From the outset this directorate faced major problems. During the first 6 months of the war, the German Army seized more than 96 million maps in reserve warehouses of the Military-Topographical Directorate. This had several distinctly negative effects. First, it negated careful prewar Soviet security measures designed to keep their maps secret. For example, the Germans, who were wholly deficient in maps of the Soviet territory, used these maps operationally and tactically by overprinting German place names over Russian ones. Second, the ensuing map shortages made resupply of Red Army forces extremely difficult, since most Red Army officers, soldiers, and drivers were not particularly terrain literate.

However, by the beginning of 1942, the General Staff had collected or prepared sufficient maps anew to support Red Army forces operationally and tactically. In addition to its efforts within the Military-Topographic Directorate, the General Staff included topographic sections in formations down to rifle and cavalry division level. Overall, during the war and under General Staff supervision, the Red Army's Military Topographical Service surveyed and reconnoitred 5.2 million square kilometres of territory, both within and outside the Soviet Union. It exploited this work by issuing 16,500 new map sheets and printing around 800 million copies of individual topographical and specialized maps, and other terrain documents.

Most former members of our Corps with experience in the numerous problems involved in producing a map, from the initial air photography onwards thru field operations, then to the cartography required and finally printing and distribution, would appreciate the huge problems faced by the Red Army at that time. Thank you Noel for a fascinating article.

Association Badges

The miniature gold plated metal badges produced for the history launch dinner in 2001 sold out long ago. However, another lot have been ordered at a price of \$10, being \$3 dearer than before because of a smaller number ordered. The badge will be identical to the previous one, except the colour is Antique Gold. Anyone interested in buying one, can contact Alex Munro on 82777074.

The Derek Chambers Award

Not known by many locally, but the memory of the late Derek Chambers has been honoured with an annual award given to the soldier in the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron,RAE, who has during that year contributed the most to the *esprit de corps* of the squadron. I think Derek would be tickled pink. I am also sure that all who knew him during his posting to 4 Fd Svy Sqn at Keswick Barracks would approve also.

Regiment History—Mapmakers of Fortuna.

If anyone still wishes to order a copy at the pre-publication price of \$50.00, please send your cheque / money order and details to -----
The Treasurer, Ex- Fortuna Association, PO Box 865, Bendigo Vic.
3552.

The Colonial Garrison 1817-1824

Written by our very own Clem Sargent, who for many years now has been a student of military history of some note. The book covers the history of the Northamptonshire Regiment in the Colony of New South Wales. It is well illustrated in both colour and black and white, and gives a significant insight into the political, social, military, religious and judicial administration of the colony. Copies can be purchased from Clem at \$50 for the hardcover and \$35 softcover, including postage.

Memorial Dedication to the Australian Survey Corps.

In early July 2002, Pam and John Harrison attended the 26th National Surveying Conference of the Institution of Engineering and Mining Surveyors, held in Darwin, NT. During the conference period, they attended the unveiling of a memorial to the Australian Survey Corps, set in the Memorial Wall on The Esplanade in Darwin.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Des Husband and Lawrie Hanson, both ex 7 MD Survey Section, and the dedication performed by Chaplain Jim Cosgrove of the Australian Army and Trevor Menzies of the Institution of Surveyors.

The introduction to the ceremony was carried out by Matthew Forsyth, President of the NT. Division of the Institution of Surveyors.

Also assisting were former 7 MD Survey Section members Art McClure and Stuart Parkinson and from the 6 Aust. Topo Svy Coy were Jack Hunt and Alan Gotterson.

Official guests included the acting Lord Mayor of Darwin, Alderman Chris Tilley, RSL President Ray Chin and the Commander 1st Brigade Aust. Army, Brig. D. Roche.

John and Pam agreed it was a touching service, and well worth the effort to attend. More on their travels later.

People News

I wish to thank Bob Skitch from the QLD. Association and Gary Warnest from the Ex- Fortuna Association, for the numerous news items both provided.

Peter Cates I understand Peter celebrates his 50th birthday this month. Congratulations Peter.

George Timmins George was mentioned in our last newsletter as preparing for prostate cancer surgery. The operation was successful, but some considerable time elapsed before clinical tests showed that the cancer had been eradicated. Waiting for the results was extremely hard on his morale, as you can imagine. Well done George and we all hope that ends the problem forever.

The 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL

Reading and quoting from an article in the Qld Association Bulletin, the Government of Papua New Guinea has authorised a medal for Australian soldiers who served in PNG, presumably as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations marking the end of WW2, held some years ago.

The medal was minted in Australia, and is available from Christies Pty Ltd in Sydney, at around \$50, on providing proof of eligibility.

Brian Murray has written to the PNG Govt. on behalf of the surviving members of the New Guinea Survey Section (8 Fd Svy Sec AIF) for WW2 service, and has received approval for those members to wear the medal.

It is also thought that approval might be extended to all former Corps members who have served in PNG, during the 50 years from WW2.

Bob Skitch is following the matter thru and has sent our Association a letter, detailing action taken to now. The letter is included in full overleaf.

South Australian members who consider they might have an entitlement to the medal, can contact Alex Munro on [redacted] 4, to consolidate a list of possible applicants for Bob to process.

Our thanks to Bob for his time and effort.

→ I've written of the letter to Danby.

Copy enclosed in his newsletter.

12/1/03

— [initials]

Mr Dave Irving
Secretary
Survey Servicemen's Association of South Australia

TRANMERE SA 5073

Dear Dave

You may have seen the notice in our July 2002 Bulletin concerning the PNG 50th Anniversary Medal. For convenience I have reproduced that notice in an attachment to this letter.

The Queensland Branch RA Svy Association has written to the PNG Government requesting in principle authorization for the issue and wearing of the medal to and by members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps who served in PNG on survey and mapping operations both during and since WW2. Our President has written also to Christies Pty Ltd requesting their conditions for the release of the medal. So far responses have not been received from either Christies or the PNG Defence Force but it is anticipated that responses will be forthcoming in due course.

There are two, maybe three, sets of circumstances that might apply to eligible Survey Service in PNG. They are:

1. Those who were posted to a specific PNG based unit such as 8 Field Survey Squadron. There is the now clear precedent established by Brian Murray (see attached Notice from our July Bulletin) for the WW2 8th Field Survey Section AIF.
2. Those who took part in PNG Survey Operations within large detachments of mainland survey units such as the AHQ (later Army) Survey Regiment (Topographical Squadron), Eastern Command Field Survey Unit (later 2 Field Survey Squadron) and Northern Command Field Survey Unit (later 5 Field Survey Squadron).
3. Those who served in survey staff and advisory appointments on the headquarters of the PNG Defence Force, or the PNG civilian mapping agency or their predecessors before independence. Other Survey Corps personnel may have served with other Australian Army units in one-off appointments or with the Pacific Island Regiment.

The obtaining of details from Australian Army Records of all those who served in any or all of the three circumstances outlined would be at least problematic although presumably CARO or SCHEMA would respond to individual requests for proof of service.

Our Queensland Association is prepared to act on behalf of all State Survey Association members in obtaining if possible some form of blanket approval from the PNG Defence Force authorizing the issue of the medal to all Survey Corps personnel with PNG service. If this is given it may then only be a matter of presenting to Christies personal proof of PNG survey service for the medal to be released on payment of the appropriate amount of money. (We understand this to be \$50.00)

In the meantime we suggest that members of your State Association be canvassed to assess their interest with a view to forming a nominal roll of members with PNG survey service with approximate dates and details of the units in which they served. The Queensland Association will then endeavour to produce a composite nominal roll that may be useful in furthering the issue.

Yours sincerely



Bob Skitch

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch**

31 October 2002

People News

Betty & Ian Lever Both agreed that Wodonga winters were too cold, so have now taken up residence at Hervey Bay in QLD.

Lea & John Wicker The travelling duo have now finished their touring around Australia and Europe, and have settled in Stansbury on Yorke Peninsula. They have bought a block of land, and are presently building a house, while renting nearby.

Dell & Tony Balkauskas Another travelling pair from Australia all-over, have now settled back at the homestead in Stansbury. Semi-retired now, Tony works part-time at the Yorketown Hospital. Also, the Wicker's new house will only be about 200 metres away.

Gary Warnest Gary went to Melbourne a few months ago to collect a cheque towards printing the Fortuna history, the result of applying for a grant from the Victorian Local History Grants Program thru the State Government. Gary received the cheque from the top man himself, Steve Bracks. A photo of the occasion appeared in the last copy of Magno Carto.

Brian Rogers Living in Moama on the Mighty Murray for some years now, Brian has shifted to Mornington.

Roger Rix Roger retired on the 30th August 2002 from Fortuna (now the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation), attending a luncheon in his honour held at the British & American Hotel, attended by a very large crowd. Best of luck Roger for the future. The bar at the B & A could tell a few yarns about a few survey bods, going back many years.

Allan Virtue Allan was recently dined out at a social gathering in Brisbane, to mark his retirement from the service as a WO1.

Kevin Walsh Kev recently had a pace-maker and fibulator fitted and is now living at home. His condition has improved a bit, but not quite back to old times.

People News

Brian Trueman Living in Edithburgh on Yorke Peninsula for many years now, Brian is having a few problems with his legs if standing too long or walking a bit far. Travelling in the area about 3 months ago, I decided to pay him a visit, but did not know his address. There were two pubs in the town, so I chose the one that Brian might favour, and enquired from the barman. Bingo. Brian had just left and I scored his address. We reminisced on old times, while enjoying a cold tube, and it was great to see him again. Brian also came over to Adelaide to attend Mick Hansen's funeral.

Brian Sloan has been posted to the USA and Peter Davies has taken over from him at the Geomatics Wing at SME.

Terry Danger from Bendigo bumped into Gary Myers at Milany near the Glasshouse Mountains.

Fred Brown Living in Perth still, Fred has gone back into full time Army service, and is presently in Timor. Fred must be a lot younger than I thought he was.

Lloyd Patterson Still living in Wodonga and running his own business for many years, Lloyd recently retired to a life of leisure.

Nance & Ken Shaw Always on the move somewhere, they recently flew to Darwin for the 50th birthday of son Darryl and also Ken's. They did all the tourist spots and had a great time, before back to NSW.

Mark Donnelly Mark is retiring as a WO2 from the service sometime in October/November, and will be farewelled in Brisbane.

Max Neil Max now lives in Tasmania and recently married for the second time. The report came from Bill Boyd. The wedding photo in the Qld Bulletin shows a young looking Max, but thinning on top.

LONGITUDE - A book review by Stevo Ilinc

Recently whilst having a telephone conversation with Paul Hopes from Brisbane he mentioned that he had just finished reading a very interesting book called LONGITUDE by Dava Sobel.

On this pretext I went out and purchased the book and having now read it, found it extremely fascinating. Dava Sobel is an award-winning former science reporter for the New York Times. The book traces the history of navigation through the centuries, the problems associated with the search for a method to establish longitude that would stand up to scientific scrutiny. In this book she has managed to combine astronomy, navigation, horology and the battle of a lone genius called John Harrison against the establishment.

The height of discontent was reached in 1714 when a petition was signed by the Captains of Her Majesty's ships and this document demanded that Parliament pay attention to and address the issue of the Longitude problem. On the 8th of July 1714 the Longitude Act was passed and offered a reward for discovering a successful means of deriving longitude. The prize money offered was the following amounts;

- 1st Prize: £20,000 for a method to determine longitude to an accuracy of a half a degree of a great circle;
- 2nd Prize: £15,000 for a method accurate to within two thirds of a degree;
- 3rd Prize: £10,000 for a method accurate to within one degree.

Since we all know that one degree of longitude spans 60 Nautical Miles over the surface of the globe at the equator one can see that even a fraction of a degree translates into a large distance. Hence this great margin for error meant many ships were wrecked because they missed their destinations by many miles.

The Longitude Act established a "Board of Longitude" upon which sat scientists, naval officers and government officials. The friction between the various board members who also represented interest groups who thought that their method was the most appropriate and therefore would qualify for a prize, makes interesting reading.

Also of note is how the word "chronometer" was derived. Sir Isaac Newton's views on this problem are often referred to throughout the book. In 1530 a Flemish astronomer Gemma Frisius suggested the mechanical clock as a possible solution to find longitude at sea. The problem was that the clocks were neither accurate nor able to withstand the temperature changes on the high seas. Others believed that the solution lay in the heavenly bodies and lunar observation. Tracing the history of the development of a solution is indeed intriguing. It also reflects the single-minded approach of John Harrison with his series of clocks and his contribution to solving the longitude riddle.

It gives an insight into some of the obsessional behavior and the extremes to which people will go, to achieve a result and collect the prize. We see the many set backs that Harrison had and then his ultimate triumph.

In 1884 the International Meridian Conference declared that Greenwich meridian become the prime meridian of the world. Since time is longitude and longitude is time, days commence at Greenwich and time zones the world over run a legislated number of hours ahead of or behind Greenwich Mean Time.

Overall a very interesting and enjoyable book to read.

Longitude by Dava Sobel

My copy purchased from Angus & Robertson \$16.95

Our thanks to Stevo for an insight into a very interesting book, which was also produced as a television series, going to air about one year ago.

Mick Hansen

Mick passed away on 18th August 2002 at the age of 61 years, succumbing to cancer only a few short months after being diagnosed. Mick was reared in a large family, living all his life in Fremantle W.A. until he enlisted in the Corps in July 1958 to serve for 9 years. After completing his basic survey training, he was posted to Central Command Field Survey Section (later 4 Field survey Unit) engaged on mapping operations in South Australia and the Northern Territory, until he elected to discharge in 1967 with the rank of sergeant. Mick then worked for several months on a reconstruction project of the East-West Railway between Kalgoorlie and Pt. Augusta, before taking a position in the Engineering Dept. of the Enfield Council, remaining there until his death, and during this time established a reputation for the completeness and accuracy of his survey work. He was also a keen fisherman, as many will recall his fishing trips to the waterholes and beaches whenever he could during mapping in the N.T. I cannot remember Mick at any time ever losing his temper, but was always even tempered, with a broad sense of humour and all will agree that he was a thorough gentleman.

A service was held for Mick at St. Pius Catholic Church, Dernancourt, packed out with friends and workmates, a tribute to the esteem in which he was held. He was later cremated.

A dedicated family man, Mick will be sorely missed, and our condolences are extended to Barbara, Kerry and Stephen and the grandchildren, with their sad loss.

Phil Meagher

Phil passed away at the age of 50 years early on the 7th December 2002, at the Bendigo Hospice, after suffering a painful illness with cancer. A long serving member of the Corps, Phil served with 4 fd Svy Sqn, 8 Fd Svy Sqn PNG., the Aust. Defence Force Academy, the Army Survey Regt. and elsewhere during his long career. He had the distinction of being the RSM of the Regiment for two years at the latter part of his service.

After retirement Phil remained in the Bendigo area, living at Eaglehawk. He was always highly regarded within the Corps, and will be sadly missed by his numerous friends. A funeral service will be held in Bendigo on Tuesday 10th December 2002.

VALE

Hans Kramer

Hans died on the 6th September 2002 in Brisbane, after a long battle with cancer. He was a remarkable character, and no doubt the news of his demise will sadden those members of our Association who worked with and knew him well.

Arriving in Australia as a German migrant in the early fifties, he worked his way around the country for some years until he decided to join the Corps in 1957. Hans served for 20 years and retired with the rank of WO1. He spent a good deal of his career with 2 Fd Svy Sqn, but also served in Vietnam in 1967/68 as well as a stint in Singapore as a liaison officer during the first of the Sumatran mapping operations.

Hans last three years were with 1 Fd Svy Sqn in Brisbane, working on mapping operations on Cape Yorke.

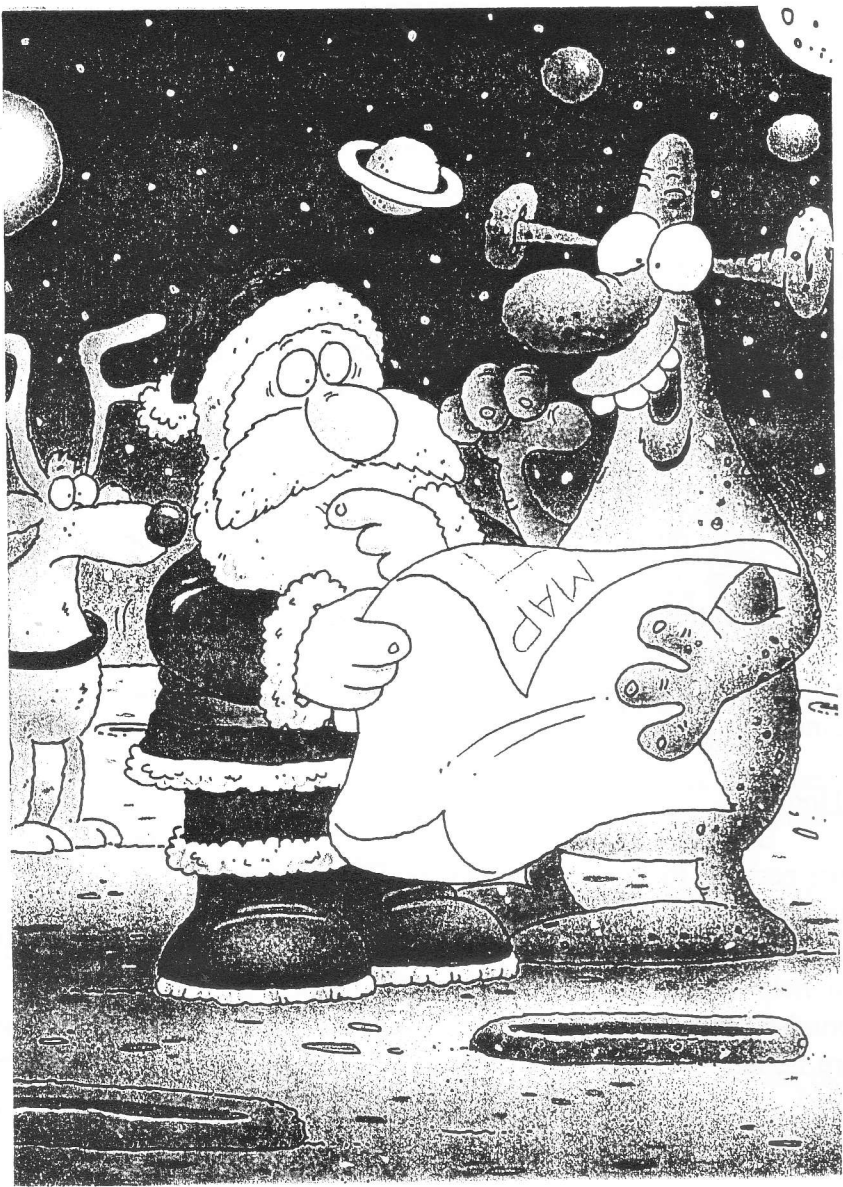
Back in civilian life again he became a commercial fisherman for two years or so, before buying a yacht to sail the Queensland coast in retirement.

Bill Hook

Bill died in Canberra on 3rd April 2002. He was better known perhaps to the field surveyors of the Corps, as the bloke who organised all the air photography for their mapping operations, and the man to contact for photo problems. Bill was always very approachable when help was needed. He initially trained as a cartographer at Balcombe on enlistment in 1959, and was posted to Fortuna, from where he later went to D Mil Svy and the photo library. Discharging in 1965, he went to National Mapping, but returned to D Mil Svy in 1972 in charge of the air photo system, until his retirement.

George Hann

George died of a heart attack on the 4th June 2002, in the Redcliffe Hospital, QLD. He was a true character and gentleman. Who could forget his beloved 1923 model Rolls Royce. George was famous for his terrain modelling and if trained in the computer era, would certainly have made an impact on terrain depiction in mapping. He retired in the late 1960,s (about) as OC of 1 Fd Svy Sqn in Brisbane. Anecdotes of George will abound for many years yet.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
BOB COOPER

SOMERTON PARK S.A. 5044
Telephone

SECRETARY/ TREASURER
DAVE IRVING

ATHELSTONE S.A. 5076
Telephone

ASST. SECRETARY/TREASURER
BOB MILLS

SEACLIFF PARK S.A. 5049
Telephone

NEWSLETTER
ALEX MUNRO

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS S.A. 5041
Telephone