



**SURVEY  
EX-SERVICEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



NEWSLETTER No 39  
MAY 2005

## Newsletter No 39 May 2005

Welcome to this edition, a bit late by about two weeks, which is not too bad when considering my other priorities.

My thanks to those members who have contributed articles for publication and other help, in particular Noel Sproles, Steve Rose, Jim Dunn and John Wicker for offering photographs, Gary Warnest thru Magna Carto, Bob Skitch thru the Bulletin of the Queensland Association and others. Thank you all.

### Social News

#### First Friday Drinks

Still held at the Saracens Head Hotel each month and still the same crew attending, thank goodness. Give some thought to attending once in a while, between 5pm and 6pm. If you have any doubts about where and when, give me a call beforehand on

#### 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Bendigo

Announced in a previous newsletter, this is definitely the last call for those wishing to attend, as the RSVP is Friday 17th June 2005.

The dinner will be held at the 'All Seasons Quality Resort', phone (03) 5443 8166 at 171-183 McIvor Rd, Bendigo, at 7.30pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005. Ample parking is available. Dress is neat casual, with some Corps memorabilia if possible. Seating will be at round tables holding about eight guests each, with no seating plan except for the head table.

The dinner is to be a two course meal with two choices each course, costing \$40 per head, with initial drinks at table included in the cost. Additional drinks will be at extra cost. On arrival please report to the reception table to confirm attendance and collect a name tag.

Various activities have been planned for the Saturday morning before the BBQ function at Fortuna Villa. As DIGO still occupy Fortuna, movement in the grounds and main building might possibly be restricted, but will not detract from the festivities.

The flyer sent out by the Fortuna Association detailing all activities, costs and all reply information has been included separately.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

On Saturday morning you may wish to visit the old Post Office that is now the Tourist Information Centre and at no cost you can view an impressive display of exhibits. The nearby RSL Hall contains a Military Museum and it has a large number of exhibits.

## ART GALLERY

For a gold coin donation a visit to the Art Gallery is also a very worthwhile activity. The Art Gallery that opens at 1000 hrs is rightly claimed to be one of the best Regional Galleries in Australia. Many may remember the large painting entitled "Gentlemen the Queen" that was displayed at Fortuna for some years which is currently on display at the gallery. Only a couple of members have indicated their intention to morning tea at the Gallery and as a result the "Boardwalk" is the nominated morning tea venue. Sunday is always available to try out the new cafe at the Gallery.

## THE BOARDWALK

The "Boardwalk Cafe/Restaurant" has been indicated by many as the morning tea venue of choice. The Boardwalk is set on the shores of Lake Weeroona and is an idealic setting to watch those who would like to, or need to, walk around the lake first. There is ample parking however those who would like to can arrive in style at the Boardwalk by tram. The Talking-Tram departs the Central Deborah Mine at about 1000hrs and arrives at the Boardwalk a little before 1030 hrs. Tram (03) 5442 2821.

## GOLF

For those of you wanting to get together and have a hit of Golf please ring Phil Smalley on (03) 5448 8713 or Email on phil.smalley@bigpond.com before the day so that the event can be coordintated. Golf is organised for Neangar Park Golf Course Avery's Road Eaglehawk with a hit off at 0830hrs.

## BBQ LUNCH

A BBQ lunch is planned for Saturday 2 July . By kind approval of DIGO Fortuna Villa is the BBQ venue. A traditional BBQ is planned. Catering is to be provided by the DIGO "Relay for Life" committee as a

fundraiser for cancer research. Cost of the BBQ will be \$5 per head. Drinks will be available at very reasonable prices. The BBQ function will commence at 1200hrs with meals available from about 1300hrs. Tea and coffee will be provided by the Association. This will be a major fund raising activity for the DIGO "Relay for Life" committee and I commend their cause to you. We have lost some of our number to cancer.

#### THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS APPLY

- You will be required to sign in at the gate against a pre submitted list of those attending.
  - Access will be limited to the region around the BBQ area the Tavern and Ballroom. Remember that this is a strict condition.
  - No vehicles will be permitted past the security gate, and
  - No private Cameras are to be taken to or permitted at the BBQ.
- Please wear the name tag provided at the dinner or collect another as you arrive.

CD's of the photographs taken at the dinner will be available at minimal cost. Other Corps memorabilia such as books, badges, ties and scarves will also be on sale.

It is preferred that those who have ordered the commemorative "Mapmakers" Port that it is picked up at the BBQ.

#### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation bookings of all types are being coordinated by Tourism Bendigo 1800 813 153. Let them know that you are part of the Ex Fortuna Function Group. The All Seasons Quality Resort, the function venue, is also offering 10% discount to members attending the dinner

#### **Corps Birthday Dinner** (local version)

Our annual dinner is to be held at the Sergeants' Mess, Keswick Barracks, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2005, at 6.45pm for 7.30pm.

A three course meal is envisaged at the moment costing around \$30 per head, to include pre-dinner sherries and orange juice. Format for the evening is casual with some formalities. Gentlemen are requested to wear a jacket and tie, preferably, but not essential. A separate flyer will be posted out nearer the date with all details, as we usually do. Please mark the date in your diary now, or at least think about it.

## **BBQ and visit to the Birdwood Motor Museum**

Brett Knuckey now works at his mapping contracts entirely at home in Birdwood, and as a local of note, can arrange group visits at the motor museum. Talking to Brett last Anzac Day, he suggested combining a BBQ with the visit. There has not been time since then to check details with him, however, if enquiries show the outing is feasible, details will be included in our next newsletter for a possible visit in spring/early summer.

## **A Get-together on the Murray**

Mentioned in our last newsletter, the idea was for a reunion at some spot on the Murray, convenient to members from Wodonga, Bendigo and Adelaide, probably a two day weekend event with minimal costs. Our Riverland residents, George Timmins, Peter Presser and Gordon Lowery were to be called upon for site and accommodation ideas. Judging from the tremendous response I didn't get, I checked the article to see if I had typed in MOON instead of MURRAY, but no. However, you have not heard the last of it yet.

## **Anzac Day 2005**

### **The March**

Mainly as a point of interest for our interstate readers, I'm glad to say the day dawned cool and clear, developing into a perfect mild and sunny day.

In keeping with many of our members, I attended the local Dawn Service and was pleased to see the very large crowd attending, which from media reports appeared to be the norm throughout Adelaide. Anyway, getting on to the main event, I arrived at our form-up point on North Terrace to see Jim Nathan as the only one there, which worried me a bit, because a few of our regulars were unable to attend, so there was doubt about the number expected to turn up. I was delighted when a total of 23 cheery bods finally assembled for the march.

Bob Love led our group again, and Dave Irving carried the Corps banner, along the normal route with numerous stops and starts, which is not unusual, but I expect the marshals have problems enough in controlling several thousand marchers.

It was a pleasant surprise to have Col. Simon Lemon marching with us, after an absence of a few years, and also Les Wellins. Les was in Adelaide on a family visit from Qld. Also with us was John Wicker, over from Stansbury on business and accompanied by Lea.

Our group was fortunate to receive some TV coverage, about five seconds with one TV station only, not much though but better than none. Following the march several group photographs were taken, while still catching up with news since last time, with most members eventually moving off for a quiet sherbet at a half-way pub, before attending our reunion.

### **The Reunion**

Held at the Exeter Hotel in Rundle St. East, from mid-day onwards. It's not the most glamorous pub on the strip, but the food on offer is reasonable and the drink prices no worse than elsewhere, but we did get a private room for our AGM so it served our purpose well enough. A head count showed 26 members were in attendance, plus Pam Harrison, Barbara Henson, Joan Munro and Mark Bates family group, so everything was set for a top reunion.

Most enjoyed their lunch in the 'rustic' beer garden, before the AGM was held from 2pm until 2.30pm. For some reason there was no TV available in the bar area, so most members left the Exeter in favour of another pub close by, to watch the traditional Anzac Day AFL footy game that was televised, for the remainder of the afternoon.

A long day, but I surely enjoyed myself, and I reckon everyone else did also.

Those present were: Alex Munro, Dave Irving, Jim Dunn, John Frith, Bob Love, Ken Jeffery, John Harrison, Bob Dikkenberg, Arthur Henson, Anthony Stephens, Allan Adsett, Angelo Pantelidis, Jim Nathan, Bob Cooper, Dave Collins, Brett Knuckey, Simon Lemon, Stevo Hinic, Peter Elverd, Bill Griggs, Alex Czornohalan, Steve McGuinness, Mark Bates, Daryl Miller, Stuart Adrain and Neil Houston.

## The AGM

The meeting was declared open at 1.55pm, with 21 members present. Without reference to the normal formalities of the meeting, the following items were discussed or reported

1. **Payment for our new banner.** The \$5 levy requested from members was generously supported, so the banner has been paid for with minimal use of operating funds.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer reported that Association funds held amount to \$565.50 fully unencumbered, as at 24 April 2005. History funds held amount to \$342.18 unencumbered.
3. **Election of Office Bearers.** The present committee offered their services for a further term, which was gratefully approved naturally.

President. Alex Munro

Secretary/Treasurer Dave Irving

History Funds Trustee Allan Adsett

Newsletter Alex Munro and Allan Adsett

4. **Venue for the next AGM and Reunion.** To be the Exeter Hotel again, unless the committee can locate a more suitable venue.
5. **AGM start time.** To be brought forward to 1.30pm, if possible, so not to interfere with viewing the televised football game each Anzac Day.
6. **Corps Birthday Dinner .** To be held at the Sergeants' Mess, Keswick Barracks, if available or alternatively at the Rob Roy Hotel. Committee to action.
7. **Installation of Corps badge at Keswick .** The bronze badge which was over the entrance to 4 Field Survey Squadron, to be renovated and installed on an appropriate base with an inscribed plaque, at a suitable location within Keswick Barracks. Committee is to approach HQ Keswick for approval.
8. **4 Fd Svy Sqn History.** On hold for some time now but has been reactivated over the past three months by Alex Munro and Arthur Henson. A plan of action has been devised, progressing fairly well so far.
9. **Medals.** Verification of eligibility for the PNG medal, will be provided thru our Association to Christies, should any member still be interested in purchasing one. How to apply for the new service medal (when available) is still being sought.

10. **Annual Donation.** Our annual donation of \$20 to the RSL will be posted out soon.
11. **Subscriptions.** Subscriptions for this year will remain at \$10, except for a small increase at the committee's discretion for interstate members.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 2.25pm.

### Anzac Day in Bendigo

Around 25 members marched with the survey group during the Anzac Day parade in Bendigo. Following the service, they moved to the RSL clubrooms at Nth. Bendigo for lunch and an enjoyable reunion, and just to mention a few names, present were Rod and Kristin Skidmore, Sherri Burke, Mick Ellis, Terry and June Danger, Rusty Williams, Brett Van Leeuwin, Heather Slater, Greg Francis-Wright, Ken Peters and Bill and Yvonne Forrest.

### World of Gerard Mercator

A book review by Noel Sproles

It is almost a certainty that all of us who served in the Corps were acquainted with the Mercator map projection. One way or the other, this celebrated projection influenced either our computations, our drawings, or the maps we printed. However, I had little knowledge of Gerard Mercator the man or of the story behind the establishment of his seemingly ubiquitous projection. Little wonder then that when I saw a book on Mercator's life and works in the 'cheapies' bin outside a bookshop, I snapped it up.

When Mercator was born near Antwerp in March 1512, a great era of exploration was under way. Columbus had stumbled across the Americas just two decades earlier; Vasco da Gama had found a route to India via the Cape of Good Hope in 1499; Balboa would first set eyes on the Pacific the year following Mercator's birth; and in a further nine years, the remnants of Magellan's expedition would complete the first circumnavigation of the globe. These discoveries pushed back the limits of European knowledge of the world, making the continual development of new maps a necessity. The Renaissance had already led to a resurgence of interest in cartography based on the works of the

ancients, such as Ptolemy, but their inadequacies in portraying the ground soon became evident.

It was fortuitous therefore that a cartographic genius such as Mercator was born into this age. He grew up with an interest in maps and mapmaking and became not only a cartographer but also a prominent maker of surveying and mapping instruments. Mercator was a contemporary and student of Gemma Frisius who is acknowledged as the developer of triangulation for mapping. The book does not go into details as to how people like Mercator went about his survey tasks and original map making, although triangulation was certainly a part of the process. As well as producing his own maps from scratch, Mercator also collected other people's works and, having checked them for accuracy and reconciled one with the other, used this information to produce new maps. I was involved in a similar style of project in the early 1960's in trying to make sense out of PIR patrol reports to update PNG mapping. As a consequence, I can appreciate the confusion inherent in such a process and the forehead-banging-on-the-desk frustration that the attempt to resolve the anomalies can produce.

As his skills developed, Mercator earned a comfortable living as a map engraver and globe maker in what is now western Germany. Contrary to popular belief, it was accepted in medieval Europe that the earth was round. The real challenge for cartographers was to portray this spherical surface (Newton and the oblate spheroid being still a century or more in the future) on flat paper for navigation, especially for navigation at sea. Mercator undertook the task of producing a map for sailors to use so that a straight line on the map represented a straight bearing to follow at sea. He achieved this in 1569 by developing his famous projection, but it is still unclear whether he did this mechanically with his drawing instruments or mathematically. Although his projection represented one of the great achievements in cartography, it did not gain the instant recognition that he had anticipated. Its acceptance had to wait until 1599 when the English mathematician, Edmund Wright, developed a set of tables to allow distances on the map to be corrected for the distortions inherent in its design. Mercator's greatest enthusiasm was for his maps and globes, of which only a few examples survive to this day. It is therefore ironic that it is because of the projection that he largely

dismissed, and not for his precious maps and globes, that his name has remained a household word for over four centuries.

The book provides an insight to life in 16th century Europe with its religious conflicts and almost continual warfare. What is known of Mercator and his colleagues is treated in detail and provides a good background to the problems faced by mapmakers in keeping up with the rapid rate of European exploration in the New World. The text is well supported with both footnotes and endnotes and illustrations of the old maps. Unfortunately, the standard of reproduction is not the greatest and the illustrations are generally difficult to read. This aside, I feel that anyone who has been involved in map making in any way will find this book a worthwhile and interesting read.

Taylor, A. 2004, The World of Gerard Mercator. The mapmaker who revolutionised geography, Harper Collins, London, ISBN: 0-00-710080-9B.

Recommended retail price \$29.95. Readily available from Amazon.com for between \$US10 and \$US20

### **Another Medal**

The Malaysian Government will award a commemorative medal to Australian servicemen and women who served in Malaysia from 1957 to 1966.

Titled the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, the medal is in recognition of their 'distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice, or loyalty' in contributing to the freedom of independence of Malaysia. Possibly as many as 12,000 current and former service members are eligible, including a few survey bds that spring to mind.

The periods for eligibility are from 31 August 1957 to 12 August 1966, and to 9 August 1965 for service in Singapore, when it left the Federation of Malaysia. Service until 31 December 1966 will also qualify those who were posted to Malaysia prior to 12 August 1966, but failed to qualify before that date.

The Department of Defence will verify applications, obtained through the toll free medals hotline-1800 111 321, or website



L-R: Bob Love, David Bowyer (part obscured), Bill Griggs, Anthony Stephens, Dave Collins, Alex Munro



L-R: TJ Wicker, Arthur Henson, John Whitburn, Bob Cooper, Bob Love, Dave Irving



L-R: Jim Nathan, Arthur Henson, Simon Lemon, John Whitburn, Dave Collins, Alex Munro



L-R: Bob Love, Simon Lemon, John Harrison, Arthur Henson

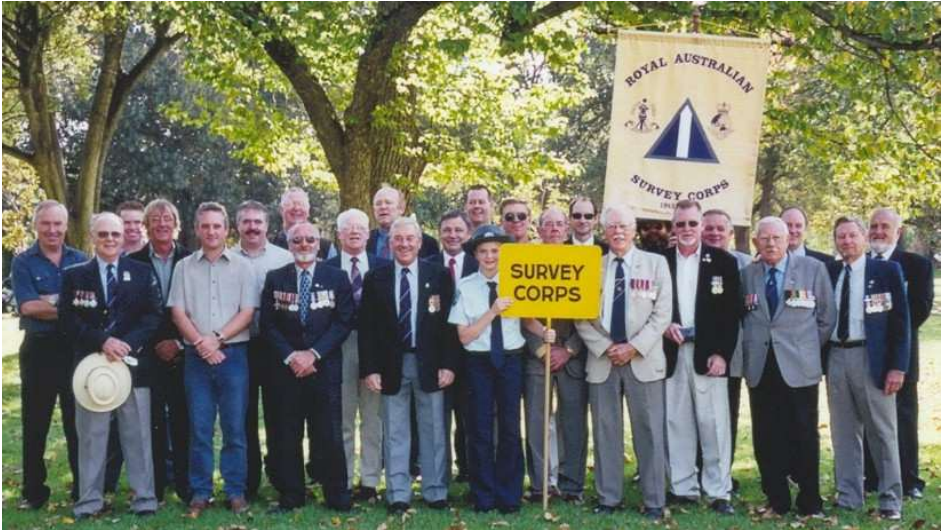


**The March**

Bob Love - leading  
 Dave Irving - carrying the banner

**The AGM**





L-R: Peter Elverd, Simon Lemon, Daryl Miller, Neil Houston, Stewart Adrain, Steve McGuinness, John Harrison, John Whitburn, Arthur Henson, Bill Griggs, Bob Cooper, Jim Nathan, Mark Bates, Anthony Stephens, Dave Collins, John Frith, Bob Love, Dave Irving, John Wicker, Alex Czornohalan, David Bowyer, Allan Adsett, Alex Munro, Les Wellins



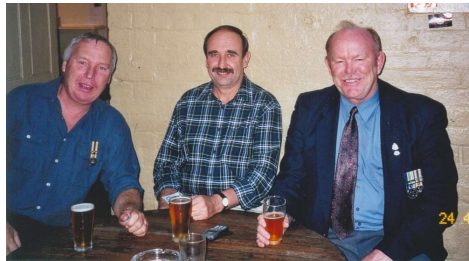
L-R; Alex Czornohalan, Ken Jeffery, Brett Knuckey



L-R: Steve McGuinness, Dick Crawford, Stewart Adrain, Daryl Miller



L-R; Bob Love, Jim Dunn, Simon Lemon



L-R; Peter Elverd, Stevo Hinic, Bill Griggs

### The Fortuna Billiard Table

Remember the full size billiard table that was set up near the old OR's Boozer, the one as I understand that came with the villa when first occupied by the Corps in 1942.

Used by many over the years, it provided a great point to socialise at, until as time moved on the space was required for something else, so the table was dismantled and stored at the Golden Square Drill Hall for many years.

Eventually it was put up for tender amongst members of the Army Survey Regiment, going to Colin Cuskelly as the highest bidder. All the pieces were then stored at the Cuskelly residence in Bendigo, for a further few years, until Colin could not hack the constant enquiries about the fate of his acquisition.

A purpose built room was prepared, and the old table installed and renovated to its former glory, now Colin's pride and joy. From Magna Carto.

### Army Uniforms

Army uniforms are constantly being upgraded and reviewed, which is realistic enough, if the system is to keep abreast of changing times, attitudes and conditions.

However, an e-mail from Noel Sproles has made me suspicious that nothing has changed from my time in the service, when blunders in the style and manufacture of uniforms was not uncommon. The item of interest was a new, casual cold weather jacket, being trialled for general wear. Included were photographs of the officer modelling the jacket, and the (James Bond style) film character Dr Evil. An unfortunate coincidence I know, but there was an uncanny resemblance between the two, not only in the face but the jacket as well. At a glance, I thought the style alone would not do much for the average male or female soldier, including the name, being the 'Adverse Weather Jacket', so I suppose it could be worn on a very hot day also. Not to worry though, the jacket has been withdrawn.

Around 1965 I tried to obtain a matching set of battle dress trousers and jacket that would fit me, but to no avail, at several Army Clothing

Stores. Eventually I did, from a surplus military store in Wodonga, of all places.

I know we all got by, and this might sound like a whinge, but I could go on.

### **East Timor Mapping**

Have you wondered what's going on at Fortuna these days? Well read on.

The Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation (DIGO) has successfully completed the first comprehensive aerial photography and mapping project of East Timor.

The landmark project began in 2001, when the Australian Department of Defence signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Transitional Administration of East Timor. During the last 4 years, a contractor took thousands of aerial photos. The images were transferred to the Geospatial Analysis Centre at Fortuna, where the maps of East Timor were produced, providing very practical assistance to a developing nation. Officials from East Timor's National Directorate of Land and Property visited Fortuna in early March to thank staff and to see the facility's operations, producing world class products.

As reported in a previous newsletter, the entire organisation now at Fortuna is scheduled to be moved to a purpose built building within the Bendigo area. Thank you Noel.

### **People News**

#### **Bob Skitch**

Why would anyone want to jump from a perfectly airworthy aeroplane in mid-air, beats me, but I must admit anyone who does is more courageous than I am. Bob did just that early this year, from 14,000 feet, at the age of 70 years.

It was his first and probably last parachute jump, done in tandem with a jumpmaster, all arranged as a birthday present from his children. I get the impression Bob would have preferred a gold watch. Just to make sure Dad did not chicken out, son Chris and his girlfriend also did the jump from the same aircraft.

Congratulations Bob on your parachute jump and also for your 70th birthday.

## Karl Bratz

Even years after his demise, Karl still rates a mention in the Adelaide newspapers. Browsing through the travel pages of The Advertiser, one Saturday morning recently, a photograph suddenly held my attention, being a picture of Karl's grave site in the Coober Pedy Cemetery. Being a bit unusual, it was recommended as one of the tourist sights to see, whenever visiting the opal fields.

Karl bought an 18 gallon keg of beer just before succumbing to bowel cancer several years ago, for the wake after his funeral, and as Coober Pedy is a hot and dry place this was appreciated and solemnly done. The keg, complete with tap and pressure pump, was to be his headstone complete with his name and the offer to 'HAVE A DRINK WITH ME', all seam welded on, and is still there. Even his funeral was reported in The Advertiser newspaper, not only because it was possibly the biggest seen in the town, but mainly for the reason Karl was buried in a casket made with corrugated iron, to save trees he reckoned.

He also was reported a couple of times in now defunct weekly magazines (Post, perhaps?) before his death, as the man who had commissioned his own casket to be made from corrugated iron, in anticipation, but with shelving added was used in his lounge as a bookcase, in the mean time Karl was in the Corps for 9 years, as I remember, mainly with 4 Fd Svy at Keswick Barracks, mapping around Woomera and further west of Coober Pedy, in the mid-sixties. He elected to discharge in those heady days of expanding oil and mineral exploration projects, when survey technicians were readily able to find work. He worked on several projects over the years, always in the bush where he preferred to be, until he settled in Coober Pedy for good.

I was informed of Karl's death by a friend of his, by phone, with the request for some memento of his service days, to be placed in the bar area of his favourite water-hole, possibly the Italian Club. Consequently, I sent an inscribed Survey Corps plaque for that purpose, hoping it's still there. This lot should put Karl to rest for all time.

## John Scharber

Over the Anzac Day long weekend, John and Joanne visited their son James, who is attached to a RAE unit at Bandiana. It was John's first visit to Wodonga for many years, and he found it difficult to find his way around the place with all the changes that have happened, but he was able

to use the old water tower as a landmark to save getting lost too often. On Anzac Day, James was part of an Engineer group which marched through Wagunyah(?) and nearby Corowa, as part of their Anzac Day services.

John followed the military bus, in his car with Joanne, so they attended both services and John was impressed by the dedication shown at each town.

John also reported that the old Black Stump watering hole has been tarted up extensively, and is much larger now. He also contacted Gordon Lowery during his stay, and was able to visit the lake-side site of the old school, where several of the original corrugated iron buildings are still in existence. Thanks John.

### Simon Reynolds

Conversing with a soldier at Keswick recently, I mentioned that I served in the Corps years ago, upon which she claimed that a relative of her family also did, namely Simon Reynolds. Small world. Simon is now a paramedic in Melbourne.

### Anthony Stephens

Since opening 'The Map Shop' in Peel St., Adelaide, about 17 years ago, Anthony has built the business into possibly the biggest map outlet in Australasia, something he is pretty sure of. The downstairs section is for retail sales only, holding around 13,500 different maps or map related products, with a stock of each.

The upstairs section is for map production only, producing mainly specific maps depending on what the client requires, at the moment producing the Fullers Street Directory, which is also printed in South Australia, as a matter of policy not to print overseas.

Anthony still rides his bike, so back last February during the Tour Down Under, he entered the 150 kms ride in the non-professional stage of the race programme, along with about 4000 other enthusiasts, including Andy Capp.

Riding together, they both finished the run, actually cycling 158 kms when the police escort become lost . Well done both.

### Mick Davies

Heard from George Timmins that Mick and his family have moved from Eaglehawk to Mt. Gambier, intending to live there permanently.

### Max Coletti

Following our previous report when Max underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumour, I'm glad to say the present prognosis is fairly good, although still early days. A check-up with his specialist in March showed no sign of cancer, however, further checks are required, the next being in late June, so we are all hoping for a good result, Max. He is back at work, and feels well overall, so is taking a very positive outlook on the situation. He and Janine have become a regular travelling duo in the last three months, spending a week in Borneo and a week in Penang, plus a Melbourne trip on return and more recently a fishing trip to Pt. Victoria.

### Houseboat Trip

Gordon Lowery and George Timmins (that pair again) went with a group of friends from Wodonga/Bandiana, on a week long cruise along the Murray about a month ago. Gordon caught the only big fish, a 15lb cod, although other fish were caught.

Perhaps a houseboat would be suitable for a 'Reunion on the Murray'.

### *Another Hudson Story*

Noel Sproles story in a previous newsletter of the WW2 vintage Lockheed Hudson aircraft, used on RASVY operations in PNG and northern Australia, prompted Steve Rose to resurrect his memories of a flight with his mother, in a Hudson, migrating from the UK. to Australia.

Briefly about Steve, hoping my memories are correct-----He served around 9 years in the Corps, from the mid-fifties on, working on projects like Operation Cutlass in New Britain and on the new 1:50,000 series maps around Darwin, with Central Command Field Survey Section. Taking his discharge, he joined the former N.T. Lands Dept., in Darwin, eventually becoming a Licenced Surveyor. He married and settled in Darwin for many years, until the untimely passing of his wife, when he sold his residence and moved to Queensland, where he still lives. Steve visited Keswick for the farewell party when the Corps was disbanded.

So on with Steve's story--

### *Trip from UK to Australia*

Although this article may not be survey related, it is about the Lockheed Hudsons – 1947 style.

UK 1947. Although the European War had finished in 1945, things were still very chaotic. Ration cards were still in use, all things were very scarce as industry was still changing from war production to peace time production. Prisoners-of-war still being repatriated, armies still being returned and demobilized, vast numbers of refugees and displaced persons to be resettled, and many families to be re-settled as their homes had been destroyed or were beyond repair. This was the Britain that my widowed mother wanted to leave and settle in Australia, but the waiting list for berths was in excess of 18 months. (Air flights were for VIPs and the aircraft were small).

The alternative was to buy a ticket on an aircraft being bought by ex-RAF or RAAF pilots with their demobilization money and being flown to Australia to start what became the Regional airlines. For about £350 each, my mother acquired us passage to Australia. In October 1947 we had the necessary visas and health certificate but the flight was cancelled – someone damaged two feet of the wing tip by taxiing into the hanger door.

12<sup>th</sup> December the big day. Reported to Heathrow for mid morning takeoff – as soon as hand-over documents completed! We were allowed one suitcase of 35lbs. (I still have that aluminium suitcase). There were four crew including the hostess, the wife or girl friend of one of the three male members – pilot, co-pilot and radio operator. 14 passengers including two kids (myself and a younger girl) in two extra chairs not fixed to the floor.

Take off was about 2.00pm so the first night was Toulouse in southern France. We could not fly direct to Rome as the Hudson did not have any oxygen bottle for the necessary 18,000 feet altitude. (Its absence was supposed to have been due to the rush to get away – but probably to save money). France was having worse rationing than UK – we had ‘ersatz’ (substitute) coffee made from roasted acorns.

The next day we flew over the Alps and struck a down draft where the aircraft dropped 1000 feet. I was in the cockpit at the time and ended up on the ceiling. Italy, having lost the war, did not seem to have any shortage of food. Most of the passengers gusted themselves and suffered air-sickness – my mother and I could not face so much food so only ate the normal amounts and did not suffer. Being only nine at the time and the advent happening 57 years ago, some things are a little vague. While in the Mediterranean we spent two days on the ground while the aircraft was used to ferry refugees – extra fuel money? One was at Nicosia – Cyprus, and I think the other was Rome. The plane stunk of onions afterwards.

We left Rome for Athens, a refuelling stop. Greece was having its civil war and all I can remember was that the aerodrome was heavily guarded by armed men. Next was Nicosia where we spent a day and were able to walk out of the old city into the country-side. All the drivers seemed to spend all their time beeping their horns, both day and night.

From there we flew to Habbani in Iraq – a small mud brick fortress in the desert. Unlike most of the dromes this was just hard soil – the others mainly had the steel mesh sheets. I am not sure where we went to in Iran, as Tehran seems too far north. Then we ran into trouble as the administration of India had been handed over to the Indians since we left UK and we did not have the necessary visas and health inoculations. I believe we landed in Delhi and that place was under quarantine due to cholera, and they wanted to keep us for two weeks, until they understood they would have to accommodate us, so instead we were sent SW to Karachi where we spent the night at the terminus due to the cholera epidemic.

Next day we left for Rangoon. This being December and the monsoon season, we had thunder storms almost every day after leaving the Mediterranean. Rangoon was a quaint old city of two story buildings and many bridges over waterways.

We had originally planned on Singapore for next stop but the place was closed due to cholera, so we had to by-pass it and go to Batavia (Jakarta now). Again the drome was under heavy guard as the Dutch and Australians were busy fighting the Indonesian nationalists. After refuelling,

we left for Bali where the airstrip was way out in the rice paddies. The night was spent in a lovely colonial resort of isolated villas connected by covered paths. Next day we left for Darwin.

The airstrip, at that time, was what is now Kingsford-Smith Avenue and the two hangers, one used for Customs/Immigration, still exist at Parap. We stayed at the Hotel Darwin, which was later extended but bulldozed a couple of years ago. We did not get much sleep, as in those days, the bedroom walls did not go all the way to the ceiling and there was much noise from the pre-Christmas partying.

We refuelled at Cloncurry, that was then a strip and hut miles from anywhere. That night, Christmas Eve, was spent at Charleville. As we were having to 'travel light', so every night the underwear was washed and hung out to dry. The hotel had huge wide verandas – vacant when we went to bed but very occupied by ringers in swags in the morning – so someone woke with knickers left hanging over his swag. We arrived at Sydney midday on Christmas Day; the fourteenth day after leaving UK, with only 12 actual flying days for the 21,000 miles. That was my adventure with Lockheed Hudsons.

For a few days we stayed at a hotel in Rose Bay. Saw the crowds dressed in their best including furs, going to the Premier of "The Overlanders", and the actors in dress. There were even cars in Sydney still with gas-producers and the gas-bag on the roof. Trams ran out to Bondi, then a clean beach.

Did we keep in touch? Not really as we continued on to South Australia where my mother got a job as cook way up in the 'mid-north'. We had some contact with the little girl's guardian for a few years, otherwise we were just like any other passengers – travelling strangers. Later saw the pilot's name in association with one of the NSW regional airlines.

## VALE

### Terry Winzar

Terry died suddenly on 15th April 05, and although suffering a few health problems his death was unexpected.

He was a printer in Litho Sqn at Fortuna, but also served in Army Recruiting, before a final posting to 1 Topo Svy Sqn. During his time in the squadron, he was in a Landrover which rolled over during an accident, injuring his back. Because of his injury, he was medically discharged.

Terry played sport well and represented the regiment at times.

His funeral service was held at the North Bendigo Anglican Church, which was packed with mourners and many having to stand outside, indicating the esteem in which he was held within the community.

Our condolences are extended to his family.

### Diane Dunn

Diane died in Wakefield St. Hospital on 24th January 05, after a short period of intensive care, following a severe stroke. She was the wife of the late Harry Dunn, a former Corps identity, and mother to the late Sally.

A funeral service was held at Our Lady and St John Church, Salisbury, attended by her many friends including Pam and John Harrison, also Barbara and Arthur Henson, representing our Association.

Our condolences are extended to son Andrew.

### Frank Hasse

Frank died recently at the age of 86 years. He was the absolute gentleman in my opinion, and was a member of the Keswick Barracks Sergeants' Mess for well over 50 years, up until his death.

Frank was never in RASVY, so why should he rate a mention. Simply because he was always a friend to survey staff at Keswick, particularly as an auditor at HQ, but also because he knew, or was known of, by almost every survey Sgt or WO who were members of the Mess during that 50 years.