

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch

BULLETIN



PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053
Website: www.rasurvey.org

ANZAC EDITION – No 38

APRIL 2009

ANZAC DAY 2009

The clarion call again goes out – join your mates for our Anzac Day celebration on Saturday 25 April. Again we start with the Dawn Service at 0530h at the Enoggera Engineer Memorial – always a truly moving event. This year Bob Skitch has the honour of placing the Association wreath. For those really early birds the traditional gun-fire breakfast will be on during the hour preceding. For the rest of us a good army breakfast (bacon, eggs, baked beans, sausages etc) will be provided in the Sportman's Club afterwards. The City parade commences at 1000h. RASvy Assn is in the post WW2 group, as usual, and is unit #113 of a total of 180 which means we should step off not later than 1100h but best be there by 1030h. We are positioned immediately after the Aust Water Tpt Assn (#112) and before the RASigs Assn (#114). FUP is in Charlotte St heading towards George St. LVJ (Les) Smith is confirmed as leader of our Association in a wheelchair with his son the means of forward motion. Rowan Shipley has the honour and pleasure of carrying the great theodolite in a regimental manner immediately behind our leader and in front of the Banner – carried by stalwarts from the Topographical Squadron.

Post-march reunion is confirmed as being at the Alderley Arms Hotel with finger food/snacks being provided (funded by the Association). Alderley railway station is very close by and the Council bus route goes past the hotel. Ample parking is available at the rear of the hotel. (enter from the car park) 1 Topo Svy Sqn members are particularly welcome.

Please note - All transport is by private arrangement.

Berets: Don't forget to wear your Association purple beret. Alex Cairney will be carrying beret stock for those yet to make a purchase. (See notice page 3.) I suspect our march leader will be wearing his old slouch hat – good luck to him!

Special mention: Mal Henderson, a member of the Adelaide Association, will be marching with us this year. Mal was a RAAOC member who accompanied 4 Fd Svy Sqn on several of the Goroka, PNG, based operations in the early 1970's and was located with and administered by 8 Fd Svy Sqn at Wewak, PNG, during the period 1977-1979. Mal is well known to many of our members.

I understand from Mal that Kevin Shorrock will also be coming from Hervey Bay to join us on ANZAC Day. Kev was the 4 Fd Svy Sqn cook in the early 70's and also accompanied that unit on the PNG operations based at Goroka. Kev is also known to some of our members.

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) acknowledges the generous sponsorship and support of *Conics Pty Ltd*.

PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR 2009

Saturday 25 April ANZAC Day with Dawn Service at the Enoggera RAE Memorial at 0530h preceded by the traditional Gun Fire breakfast in the Sportsman's Club commencing at 0430h. A full 'Army' breakfast follows the service and then the city march commencing at 1030h. The post march survey reunion will take place at the Alderley Arms Hotel – when? Straight after the march.

Friday 26 June The Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner celebrating the 94th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps in the Royal Room of the United Service Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. Open to all this is a premier event in our Association Calendar and is subsidised by our Association sponsor to hold the cost at \$50.00 per head for a cordon bleu three course dinner including beverages. Run on semi-formal lines the port is passed in the traditional manner. The event is always great fun – ask anyone who has previously attended.

Saturday 5 Sept



Our traditional reunion and Annual General Meeting at the Alderley Arms Hotel. This year's event in our new location was a winner – again ask anyone who attended. The event has been held annually by your Association since 1947 when the veterans of WW2 decided that they wanted to maintain the bond of comradeship forged during their war service. It is regrettable but inevitable that our few remaining WW2 Survey Veterans are no longer able

to attend – but we will remember them.

October date TBA The Military Mapmakers Dinner with I Topo Svy Sqn as host. It is regretted that exigencies of the service prevented this function from being held this year but the squadron is confident that it should be on again in 2009, perhaps at a different venue.

November date TBA The Derek Chambers Award at the 1 Topo Murray Bar. The award goes to the young soldier who has displayed outstanding esprit-de-corps in the best tradition of the Royal Australian Survey Corps during the preceding twelve months.

COMMITTEE

Patron Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE (Ph 3408 9179)

EXECUTIVE

President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)	email: petenbarb@dovenetq.net.au
Vice President	Alex Cairney (Ph 3397 7583)	email: cairneyalex@hotmail.com
Secretary	Barry Lutwyche (3264 2191)	email: rasvy_qld@yahoo.com.au
		... sec.qld@rasurvey.org
Treasurer	Ross Smithwick (Ph 3356 5786)	email: rdsmithwick@ozemail.com.au

COMMITTEE

Member	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)	email: rockthis@bigpond.net.au
Member	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)	email: jimgill@hotmail.com
Bulletin Editor	Bob Skitch (Ph 5438 0550 Caloundra; or 3350 1550 Brisbane)	email: bob.skitch@runbox.com
North Coast representative & web site manager	Kym Weston (Ph 5445 6927) (mob 0427 377 226)	email: kym@westonsweb.com
North Qld representative	Dennis Gregor (Ph mob 0412 756 196)	Email: dennis.gregor@conics.com.au

Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell

**1 TOPO SVY SQN
Squadron OC
Squadron SSM**

Major David Sapparth
WO1 Peter Coles (Ph 3332 7564)

NOTICES

**A VERY SPECIAL REUNION EVENT FOR ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
VIETNAM VETERANS serving with
DETACHMENT FIRST TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY TROOP
and
A SECTION – FIRST TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY TROOP
and their partners
including those from other Corps who served with the Survey Units in
Vietnam and other RA Svy members detailed for service in Vietnam ('B'
Section personnel).**

The venue can seat 180 persons. After the 1st of May seats remaining to be sold will be open to all other past members of RA Svy and past and serving members of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron RAE and others in the RAE Survey Service.

Guest of honour

GENERAL PETER JOHN COSGROVE, AC, MC

WHEN: 15th & 16th August 2008

WHERE: Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads NSW

\$110 per person for dinner and luncheon

\$60 per person dinner only

\$50 per person luncheon only

Dinner is on Saturday Night August 15th

Luncheon is on Sunday August 16th

**PLEASE PAY A DEPOSIT TO THE BENDIGO BANK BSB 633-000 ACCOUNT
133297994**

ACCOUNT NAME Lloyd Patterson

Please contact Loyd Patterson_02 6056 1634 or 0402 222 844 or by email

lloyd@bmp.net.au .

TROOPER MARK DONALDSON VC

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) congratulates Trooper Mark Donaldson on his award of the Victoria Cross for Valour in Afghanistan.

BERETS – BERETS – BERETS

Our Association still has berets in the following quantities & sizes:

Medium: 14

Large: 3

Extra large: nil

Total 17

Be distinctive in the RA Survey distinctive headdress. Contact Alex Cairney email cairneyalex@hotmail.com

VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay.

Copies can be obtained from Bob McMillan-Kay at a cost of \$36.00 including postage. We commend this highly successful book of Bob's Vietnam experience. Bob's address is 14 March Lane, Maryborough, Qld, 4650.

MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 which includes cost of a padded postal bag.

ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF

Cost is \$20.00 and \$7.00 postage for each. We suggest you place your order directly with the Ex Fortuna Association, Tracey Phillips, email phipsys@bigpond.com or phone Barry Lutwyche.

MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Included in this Bulletin is a listing of membership from the Association records in financial categories – Life (21), Honorary (4), Ordinary financial (67) and Non-financial. Our financial year runs from September to September. Annual subscription is but \$15.00 per year and we encourage you to pay three years in advance – or more if you wish. Subscription is waived for veterans 75 and over who have been standing paid up members of our Association. Pay time was at our AGM on the 13th September 2008 but it is not too late to pay up now. In the words of 'Devey' "Don't go to sleep on your membership".

ASSOCIATION BADGE

Association badges are still available from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association. Place your orders with **Barry Lutwyche** and we will try to satisfy them.

RA SURVEY ASSOCIATION PLAQUE

Magna Carto advises that the plaque has been finished and is ready for distribution. The final design incorporates the three badges overlapping, the theodolite badge of pre-WW2, the wartime colour patch and the Post WW2 RA Svy badge. The cost of the plaque is \$50.00 plus postage. Place orders with our Secretary, Barry Lutwyche.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS PLAQUE:

The Ex-Fortuna Association has purchased some of the original RA Svy plaques. These are available from Ex-Fortuna Secretary Tracey Phillips, 03 5449 6330 (AH); email phipsys@tpg.com.au Price on application.

LAST FRIDAY DRINKS

The new year seems to have produced a renewed interest in Last Friday Drinks at the Gaythorne RSL. Attendance has picked up considerably. Attendees at Gaythorne RSL on Fri 30 Jan were Brian Cosford, John Gilbert (down from Toowoomba), Jim Gill, John and Cheryl Hook and Barry Lutwyche. The function coincided with Brian Cosford's birthday providing a cheap occasion for him.

Attendees at Gaythorne RSL on Fri 27 Feb were Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword, John (Jim) and Sandra Beard with son Mark, Alex Cairney, Brian Cosford, Jim Gill, John and Cheryl Hook, Barry Lutwyche, John and Joanne Scharber (visiting from Adelaide) with son James and Rowan Shipley. The Scharbers were in Brisbane for a few days visiting their son James who is currently posted to 21 Construction Squadron RAE, Enoggera, after returning from Afghanistan last year. The Scharbers appeared well although John reports that he is to undergo another knee reconstruction op in late March.

DFRB, DFRDB, MSBS

Most of us are well aware of the significance of the above initials. They denote the various service retired pay (com super) schemes that have applied from 1948 to the present. Most members of our Association who have served the requisite number of years would be covered under the DFRDB scheme. All are indexed and each six months adjusted according to the movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For some time now the various defence representative organizations have canvassed the federal government to have the pension and superannuation indexation based on the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) index. Had this been the case over the past decade we who are now recipients of a DFRDB pension would be a good deal better off (calculated at 35%). The submission to government is in part based on the fact that MTAWE indexation applies to other Commonwealth pension schemes; age, service and DVA disability pensions and to parliamentary super schemes. It also argues the special nature of military service. Those who wish to explore the detail of this very comprehensive submission to government may do so by entering the following website:

<https://console.clubsonline.com.au/gallery/images/RSL%20DFWA%20NAA%20RAAFA%20-%20Indexation%20Review%20Submission.pdf>

PNG PLAQUE

The following is an approximate mock-up of the commemorative plaque proposed to be installed within the Koki Remembrance Park at Port Moresby. State Associations have subscribed generously to the production and placement of the plaque. There has been some suggestion that the plaque should contain wording to cover RA Svy post WW2 operations in PNG. It must be pointed out that this is a commemorative plaque directed to those Survey Corps units that had active service in the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea during WW2 and is to be installed

in a Remembrance Park. It must therefore be confined to those specific units so designated.

An appropriate plaque recognizing the achievement of RA Svy in the post WW2 mapping operations that produced total map coverage of PNG at the scale of 1:100,000 is a project that could well be undertaken as a separate project.

The situation with regard to the present plaque is that we are awaiting acknowledgement of the Port Moresby RSL's support for the plaque placement from the National Capital District Commission (NCDC).

Badge	Badge	Colour patch
Australian Survey Corps	Australian Army (Rising Sun)	Australian Survey Corps
AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS dedicated to the members of: NEW GUINEA SURVEY SECTION – LATER 8 FIELD SURVEY SECTION 2/1 st AUSTRALIAN FIELD SURVEY COMPANY 6 ARMY TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY COMPANY 2 FIELD SURVEY COMPANY 3 FIELD SURVEY COMPANY 5 FIELD SURVEY COMPANY 1 AUSTRALIAN MOBILE LITHOGRAPHIC SECTION 12 FIELD SURVEY DEPOT 13 FIELD SURVEY DEPOT		
who served in the New Guinea theatre from 1942 to 1945 providing mapping and survey support to the Allied Forces.		
Badge RA Svy Assoc	Placed by members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Associations – date with kind permission of the Government of Papua New Guinea.	

EVENTS

Derek Chambers Award

This annual event took place in the Murray Club of 1 Topo Svy Sqn on 28 November 2008. This very pleasant function was especially enjoyable this year. The recipient, Sig Michael (Jack) Mealin, is the computer techo for the squadron and is held in high regard by all members for the unstinting service he provides. In effect his role is that of the computer 'help desk' for that highly computerised unit. Michael struck me as being a very polite well-spoken young man totally identified with the Squadron and clearly very popular.

The Derek Chambers Award is an annual presentation to the young soldier who best exhibits the quality of, and contributes to, the *Esprit de Corps* within the Squadron. Squadron Sergeant Major WO1 Peter Coles outlined the nature of the Derek Chambers Award and the way in which Sig Mealin more than satisfied the criteria. The Acting Squadron OC Captain Sarah Reynolds spoke of the high regard the Squadron has for this annual award by the Association and the care they take in selecting the recipient. She also spoke of the value the Squadron places on its relationship with our Association.

This year Bob Skitch was given the honour of presenting the award to Sig 'Jack' Mealin. Bob was Derek Chambers' OC in Vietnam in 1966/67 and had a hand in his initial recruitment into RA Svy. Derek's wife Lorraine had tendered her apologies; work commitments had prevented her attending,

Members of the Association attending were Peter Bates-Brownsword, Alex Cairney, Barry Lutwyche, Rock Thistleton and Bob Skitch. Also attending was David Flood from Warwick. David had gone to school with Derek in Caboolture, quite some years ago. David is a retired school teacher who did his National Service at the AHQ Survey Regiment in 1971/72. He served in the transport area with the likes of Harry Wright and Jeff Murray. David's NS obligation had been deferred until the completion of his teacher training.

Photos of the Derek Chambers award event can be found in our photo gallery.

Jazz at the Glen

This very special event at the home of Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword was held as advised in our December Bulletin on Sunday 15 March. It was attended by one, **only one**, member of our Association. How disappointing! The event was brought forward from December to March to replace the BBQ afternoon at Tony and Loreta Gee's Bribie Island home. Our one attendee was Alex Cairney who reported that it was a most enjoyable event. Peter and Barbara had

brought together their jazz playing group and, fortunately, many friends and neighbours attended.

Association members – please read your Bulletin. Events are listed on the front page and mark them in your diary!

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT – WOOMERA, MARILINGA

Issue number 12 of this Bulletin (Spring 2002) contained an article titled 'RA SVY AT WOOMERA, MARILINGA & EMU PLAINS'. Essentially the article is a plea from some of those Survey Corps personnel who served at Woomera in those early years following WW2 and later at Marilinga. In the Corps history by Dr Coulthard-Clark some mention is made of that involvement and a number of names are mentioned at the rank they held at that time. Mention is also made of another identity, Len Beadell who served many years at Woomera, initially in the Corps at the rank of Sergeant and later Warrant Officer. When the Corps departed Woomera in 1950 Len Beadell continued as a civilian. In those and the following years Len developed a somewhat iconic status. He published books on his experiences and became a sought after speaker. He was indeed an interesting and amusing raconteur. The article was inspired by three of our members, Clem Sargent, John Hillier and Colin van Senden, the latter having also served many years in a civilian capacity at Woomera following his Corps service. Their intent as stated in the article was 'To set the record straight.....to produce a history of the Corps, involvement at all three locations – Woomera, Marilinga and Emu Plains'. In so doing it was not their intention to denigrate the character of Len Beadell or in any way his achievements. Unfortunately the project in mind never matured and nothing has been written.

In January I had an email from Mr Bruce Henderson concerning a matter entirely unrelated to Woomera and in that email he stated '*I'm retired and living in Port Augusta after having worked for Defence for 36 years (Army and Defence civilian).*

Many years of my working life was involved with Woomera and one of the community projects that I co-ordinated was the "Lennie's Rest" memorial in the Woomera cemetery. In case your members are not aware of Len Beadell's final resting place I have included a link to the story. It is the last story in the "Other News" section of the website'. Bruce Henderson had become aware that a general feeling persisted in the Survey Corps that Len Beadell's involvement and accrued status in Woomera and later at Marilinga had been overstated, especially by Len himself in his various publications. Bruce believes this is an entirely wrong assessment and totally unjustified. He has carried out extensive research into the matter and has asked that the following statement be included:

"If you write of my interest in Len Beadell please ensure that you mention that my interest is ensuring that he is not misrepresented by misinformed opinion as has occurred in a number of forums. Maybe you should add that I will support any statement that I make in this endeavour with documentary evidence extracted from Clark's research documentation and a number of other sources". Bruce also points out that 'Emu Plains' is not a location associated with Woomera. 'Emu' is a test location and the name of a large claypan on which two airstrips were built and subsequently called 'Emu Field'. Further the Gun Barrel Highway is not the centreline of the range but simply a local name given to a long straight track leading west of the range.

Finally I must state that I personally have no reason to be disparaging about Len Beadell although on re-reading the 2002 article I would have to admit to a degree of cynicism in the writing. I accept that such cynicism is unwarranted.

PERSONALIA & other jottings

Ed: *Bulletins and or Newsletters from other State associations are available on our website www.rasurvey.org. These include WA (Westlink), SA, NSW and now the ACT Associations. Personalia items*

can be found in most of these as well as articles and stories of the past. Make use of our website.

Brief on the Newsletters/ Bulletins of other State Survey Associations recently received:

South Australia:

- A comprehensive report by Alex Munro on Anzac Day 2008 – many names are mentioned.
- 'The True Story – Adelaide to Darwin 1957' by John Harrison.

ACT:

- A National RA Svy Association – report of the Bendigo meeting and an expression of opinion by Rob McHenry.
- Peter Jensen's RA Svy Nominal Roll project.
- 'Tall Tales & True' – memories of Keith Barber by John Bullen.
- 'A Visit to the battlefields of the WW1 Western Front by Peter Jensen, (Ed: a worthwhile read.)
- Photo Gallery: photos of 8 Field Survey Squadron at Popondetta.

NSW

- ANZAC Day 2009 details.
- Bob Skitch's Survey Corps History Project – What did we do 1946 – 1996?
-

All of these Newsletters can be accessed on our website www.rasurvey.org.

An Old Bloke's Grave: In our December Bulletin I included a story with the title 'An Old Bloke's Grave'. I have been asked to identify the personal pronoun – it was me; Bob Skitch!

Jeff Senior: Mrs Senior wrote to our Association recently with the sad news that her husband Jeff, following a heart attack, had developed dementia and is now permanently in an aged care home. Bob Skitch who had had mail contact with Jeff over the years since the publication of his personal account of his WW2 service in 5 Company (Bulletin 9 April 2002) replied on behalf of the Association. "It is

sad news that you convey to us in Queensland. Jeff was a valued member of the World War Two 5th Field Survey Company and his book 'Grandpa's War Service' gave a valuable insight into the service of those who served in Survey during those uncertain years. We in the Queensland Association convey our very best wishes to you both."

John (Jock) Kay: Alex Cairney received a special invitation recently – unfortunately it arrived three weeks too late due to an Australia Post hiccup. The invitation read: John and Krystyna would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating our recent marriage ---at a light luncheon at the Veterans Community Hostel 27 Buckley Road Burpengary. THE PERFECT GIFT WILL BE YOUR PRESENCE.

Congratulations Jock and Krystyna from all of your Association friends.

Kym Weston: The text of a recent email from Kym....*We are currently at Lynhurst SA after completing the Strezleki Track since road to Birdsville is still closed. Now heading North.*

Bob and Wendy Skitch depart for London in mid August via Hong Kong returning via Singapore in early November. The centrepiece of their trip is to be a river cruise from Budapest on the Danube to Amsterdam on the Rhine. Their son Christopher and his wife Sharon live in London so some time will be spent in that great city as well as other locations in UK.

Terry Starr: Jim Gill reports... While tidying up my office I found some details for a chap named Terry Starr who served in the Corps for a short time 1963 to 69 in Sydney. We met up with Terry (he remembered John Hook) at the Digger's Bowling competition in Dubbo last August but I had lost his details until now. Terry's contact details are: 4/1 Teviot Ave, Abbotsford, NSW 2046. Email: burwoodbookexchange@dodo.com.au.

Terry would look forward to catching up with anyone who might remember him.

Ed: Terry served in Vietnam from 18 April 1967 to 21 November 1967.

Alex (Puddles) Pond: Who would remember WO2 Alex Pond, instructor at the school in the mid to late 1950s. (He taught me on my Basic Survey Course - Ed). Alex whom we affectionately knew as 'Puddles' could only be described as a 'nature's gentleman'. His nephew, Bruce Henderson has sent the following email to Secretary Barry:

I've just commenced the journey in researching the service history of my uncle Alexander Beresford Murray (Puddles) Pond who served in RA Svy Corps 1940's to 1950's. He was known to his immediate family as Tiger Pond. To date I have corresponded with the Curator of the RAE Museum as the museum now holds the RA Survey Corps Historical Collection. I've also written to the Central Army Records Office seeking details of his service record. I have just located your website and would appreciate it if you could advise your members that I am seeking information on Puddles Pond.

Puddles received "The Big Stand Easy" in Melbourne on 30 May 1986. His wife June passed away on 14 September 2000. They are survived by one son, Alan who was born in May 1960.

Any assistance from your members would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards .Bruce (Henderson)

Email: [brucehenderson1@bigpond.com]

Ed: 'Tiger' eh! Who would have thought?

Bill Baker: Barry Lutwyche reports: I recently called on Bill Baker in Longford (Tasmania). Bill was away playing golf but I spoke to his wife Robin for a short time. Both are well. Robin reported that Bill had a hip replacement in the last 12 months. Bill and Robin own a B & B establishment named The Racecourse Inn, circa 1840's. By coincidence my (Barry's) father and two brothers, all builders, had done some renovation work there about 30 years ago for the previous owner.

Robin told me that they have had a number of visitors from Queensland over the years including Cheryl and John Hook, Faye and Kym Weston, Ros and Bruce

Gordon and Loretta and Tony Gee who are regulars. Bill and Bruce Gordon remain in reasonably frequent contact.

Bill's email address is innbaker@vision.net.au

Bob McMillan Kay: from Maryborough writes – My museum is still expanding. It now incorporates a 'secret bunker' which has displays of the Bribe Island Fortress, the Fraser Island Commando School for Z Force, Bundaberg and Maryborough Airfields during WW2 and the Townsville Line Bunkers. I've almost completed my WW2 Theatre where I can show documentaries and movies. I will hopefully be having an opening ceremony for that and the bunker display room in the next couple of months.

My 25 pounder artillery piece was re-located from Maleny to Maryborough recently as it was deteriorating in the weather down there over the last five years or so. It came up in a container during the night and we had to get it off and hook it up to my ute and back it into my garage until I can get around to restoring it again. It will then be displayed in the museum under cover. (Bob has sent local newspaper clips 'A big bang for our backyard' and 'Big gun rolls into Heritage City'. (Ed: photos in our next Bulletin)

Apart from that I'm kept busy maintaining my colonial Queenslander (Circa 1913) and Anne's Miner's Cottage (Circa 1885) as well as the museum.

Ed: *Bob's contributions to the City of Maryborough are quite remarkable. Clearly a visit to his museum should be a 'must' for any of our members in their travels north. I'm sure Bob would be very welcoming. His phone number is 07 4123 3774, mobile 041 257 3990.*

VALE

William (Bill) Athey Jeffery

Ed: Bill Jeffery would fall into that category of 'the most unforgettable character I have known'. Bill was simply such a good bloke. I first met and worked with Bill in 1960 when the

Regiment's Topo Squadron headed north to carry out the Camooweal to Borooloola Tellurometer traverse and then extensive 1:250,000 mapping in the Gulf. Bill and I shared a vehicle in the convoy that took us there. It was early days in Bill's RA Svy career and I think he was allocated to the reconnaissance clearing and tower building party and we saw a good deal of each other over the following months. It was to be many years before I saw Bill again and that was at a Regiment reunion somewhere about 2002. Bill was then not a well man. It was Clem Sargent who put me on to Bill last year, not long before Clem's own passing. Bill having moved to Queensland and into a retirement villa at Kawana Island had an unexpected phone call from a lady in his distant past. It was Edie who was to become Bill's second wife. Edie has looked after Bill in his failing years. In my visit last year Bill commented " I have had a wonderful life, I have no regrets".

The following eulogy was given by Charlie Watson:

Vale Bill Jeffery (take mets now)..... Sadly I have to report the death of my good mate and Corps member, Bill Jeffery on 25 Feb 09 in Queensland. Bill was born 20 Sep 24 and spent his early years at Lockhart NSW close to the Victorian border. Hence his favoring AFL over NRL. Bill served in 2/6 Commando Squadron during WW2. Actually 2/6 was in 7 Div not 6 Div as you may speculate from the numbering. 2/6 Motto was "Nothing over us" taken from a Woolworths advertisement which claimed that Woolworths stocked no item selling for more than two shillings and six pence (2/6). I'm not positive that it was Woollies it may have been Coles. I'm not sure of all the places that Bill served but I know that he was in the Markham Valley Campaign. Being a Commando Bill was always very fit and left many a younger bloke puffing up the hill behind him. After the war Bill joined the Survey Corps and rose to the rank of Sergeant before taking his discharge in the late 60's. Some time before or after the war Bill trained as a sign writer and suffered in later life from the effects of the lead paint. Bill's printing was very good and he got a leave pass at the School because he was up to standard in lettering. However, the next

week he missed out on leave because he had not improved on the last test. Bill made the cover for the Canberra Survey Corps Association Functions Attendance Book and kindly provided the autographs of those attending the Survey Corps Jubilee Dinner on 11 Nov 65.

After taking his discharge from the Survey Corps Bill joined the Geodetic Section of the Division of National Mapping in Canberra. Bill was a very good observer and did a lot of first order and Laplace Astronomical Observations. With the wind down of geodetic field work Bill went on to Bathymetric Surveys of the Continental Shelf, which is where I met up with him having heard a lot about him from Frank White and the older hands at Survey Directorate. We spent many years surveying on the MV Cape Pillar. Bill got on well with people and provided a steadying influence on many a new or old field hand or surveyor.

After resigning from AUSLIG as NATMAP had now become, and the loss of Jean, his wife of many years, Bill moved to Gumly Gumly near Kapooka and became involved in fostering Esprit de Corps among recruits at Kapooka.

Some time after becoming ill Bill moved to Queensland to seek treatment. I don't know the precise details of his life in Qld so I will not speculate.

Bill is survived by many children, grand children and no doubt great grand children. I will only mention his eldest son Ken who also served in the Corps.

A memorial service for Bill was conducted on 21st March 2009 at 12.00 at Norwood Park Crematorium in Canberra.

Bill's eldest daughter Janine White added the following words: Thank you Charlie for your kind words on the death of my father, Bill Jeffery. I am Janine White, his eldest daughter. Bill had six children, three boys and three girls. Sadly we lost Rodger, Bill's second son when he was 26 as a result of a motor cycle accident in 1982. Bill spent his early years in Melbourne, he

was the only son with four sisters. He went to war from here and when he returned he married my mother (a Lockhart girl) and moved to her home town. Here he worked with asbestos and as a result he developed this cancer in his later years. He was a very fit bloke and had a great life surveying Australia. (Rejoining the army in 1959.) When we moved to Canberra he joined National Mapping in 1964. Mum died in 1999 and Dad moved to Wagga involving himself with the recruits at Kapooka. He remarried in 2006 and moved to Queensland. His memorial service will be on 21st March at 12.00 at Norwood Park Crematorium in Canberra.....Janine White

William Lewis Love: Bill Love passed away at Rose Court Aged Care facility on 28 April 2008. Bill was originally from Canberra and joined the Corps in 1956 after recruit training at Kapooka. After completing the 9/56 Basic Course at Balcombe he was posted to Central Command Field Survey Section in Adelaide. The unit almost immediately commenced five years of survey operations in the Northern Territory and these were followed by a number of trips to the desert regions of South Australia. Not long after this Bill left the Corps to join the South Australian Highways Department where he stayed until his retirement.

Delivering the eulogy at Bill's funeral, John Harrison recounted many of the humorous events that happened during those years. To those who were fortunate enough to know him, Bill was a mate, a mentor, a humanitarian, a colleague, a wet nurse to some and a devoted family man. Bill will be missed by all who knew him and the Association extends its sympathy to his wife Elizabeth and his extended family. (from the SA Newsletter August 2008)

John Hogan

Gary Warnest of the Ex Fortuna Survey Association reports....Again it is with sadness that I inform you of the sudden passing of John Hogan who died peacefully in his sleep last night 11 Feb 09. John was a well known long serving

RASVY WO1 and RSM of the Survey Regiment. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late John Hogan will be held at Our Funeral Home (Mulqueen Family), 13 – 25 Bridge Street, Bendigo on Wednesday February 18 at 12:30pm. A private cremation will follow.

Ed: A more fitting eulogy on John is being prepared by the Ex Fortuna Survey Association and will be published in our June Bulletin.

Keith Barber

Keith Barber, Warrant Officer First Class died on the 21st January 2009 aged 87. Born on 18 February 1922 at Queenscliff he was educated at Queenscliff and the Gordon Institute of Technology in Geelong. Keith enlisted in the Permanent Military Forces RAE on 7 May 1940. He served during WW2 in the New Guinea Survey Section and was part of the Lt Gerry Owers party to undertake a compass and chain traverse over the Owen Stanley Range from Abau to Safia, an extremely arduous task. The Coulthard-Clark history gives an interesting account of an incident in Corporal Barber's service with the New Guinea Survey Section (by then the 8 Field Survey Section) in the Wau Valley.

Following WW2 Keith's service in the Corps continued in a number of appointments and he rose through the ranks to Warrant Officer 1st Class. He acquired the nick-name of 'Acky' the origin of which is uncertain and Acky himself would never divulge it. In his various appointments Keith had contact with a large number of Survey Corps soldiers each of whom would have their own stories to relate. Few would dispute that Keith (Acky) Barber was one of RA Survey's most colourful characters.

(this brief outline of Keith Barber's service is taken from John Bullen's Vale entry in the ACT Association Newsletter.)

FRANK THOROGOOD

Following Bob Skitch's visit reported in our last Bulletin Frank was delighted to receive a response from ex-survey members interested in what he has been

doing since 1981. The following is a resume of Frank's post army quite remarkable career. He writes:

"I resigned in 1981 while CO of the Survey Regiment to accept a position as executive director of the Red Cross in Victoria. I had a paid staff of 460 and 20,000 volunteers. The budget in 1980/81 was \$34M most of which was for the blood transfusion service (BTS).

Red Cross has three major areas of responsibility - dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL), disaster management and the (BTS). Red Cross volunteers and staff provide many other services to the community such as first aid, tracing agency, hospital and community services, transport, youth programs and health and safety education.

Dissemination of IHL covers training and education of IHL commonly called 'the law of war'. The Department of Defence is the principle actor with Red Cross and legislative authority is found mainly in the four Geneva Conventions and 1977 Additional Protocols imported into Australian domestic law. I believed dissemination of IHL was somewhat neglected by both Defence and Red Cross. The importance of IHL was eventually recognised and Australia was well-placed to meet the legal challenges of conflicts in the Pacific, the Gulf, the Middle East, the Solomons, East Timor and elsewhere. I attended the 1989 IHL course conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at San Remo Italy, and was invited to join the staff for the 1990 course.

In 1974, while still in the Army, I had volunteered to assist with the development of the newly established Natural Disasters Organization (NDO) and that was tested when Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin at Christmas 1974. I went to Darwin as Chief of Staff to the Director General NDO Major General Alan Stretton.

I was experienced in disaster management while a senior member of St John Ambulance and Red Cross wanted someone with that sort experience. In 1982 I was appointed the delegate of the ICRC to conduct the relief operation in Tonga following Cyclone Isaac and later the same year I was again the ICRC delegate after the volcanic eruption of Gunung Gaiunggung in Western Java.

I was hardly settled in the BTS when HIV arrived. This was a turbulent period which revealed the need for a national blood service. With the Medical Director I visited the BTS in a large number of countries and it was interesting to discover the Australian BTS was operating at world best practice and our system of unpaid volunteer blood donors was the way to go and paid donors are becoming rare overseas.

In 1991 I decided it was time to move on and I was keen to get more involved in IHL and thought it would be useful to study law. I graduated LLB (Hon) Melb U. I was admitted to practise as a barrister in the Supreme Courts of Victoria, Queensland and the High Court. I taught IHL at Bond University as an adjunct professor in the Law faculty”.

**FORTUNA RE-VISITED – a reflection
by Kevin Moody**

Ed: Kevin attended the 7/55 Basic Survey Course at Balcombe and on graduation was posted to the newly formed AHQ Survey Regiment. Kevin had had three years previous service in RAE at the time of undertaking the Basic Survey Course. During his three years with the Regiment Kevin served on two major field operations; Project Cutlass – the shore-ship survey of New Ireland in 1956/57 of fifteen months duration and then the Charters Towers to Tennant Creek Tellurometer traverse of eight months duration. On leaving the army in 1959 Kevin worked for Geosurveys of South Australia and saw extensive field service in central Australia and western Queensland and in Portuguese (East) Timor. He has written an extensive account of his time with Geosurveys and especially his Portuguese experience. It is a fascinating read. Leaving Geosurveys at the time he married Myrie he continued in

cartography with the Division of National Mapping in Melbourne and Dandenong until his retirement. Kevin and Myrie live in Torquay, Victoria.

Sunday September Seven, 2008, DIGO Day, Fortuna Farewell, call it what you will, it was a great day to farewell Fortuna. My thanks to the organisers who provided a tasty meal with well priced refreshments.

It's now 49 years since I chose to leave AHQ Survey Regiment and seek a future elsewhere. So, it was indeed an unexpected joy to meet so many mates from the past with whom I'd spent time on Shore Ship in New Ireland and Telurometer Traverses. I met Bob Skitch, Len Davies & Tom Royal, all contemporaries during my Fortuna days and who later became officers. One has to wonder, was I officer material? I don't think so!

With lunch devoured Bob (Skitch) volunteered to show Lou Sommer, self & our wives the inner secrets of Fortuna Mansion, an offer too good to miss. Most rooms were stripped of furniture, but the stained and etched glass windows that unexpectedly appear in many rooms throughout the building, commanded my long inquiring look. One has to wonder – who could have been so smart to have made such things so long ago.

After recovering from my indulgence with stained glass I began to see Fortuna as it was for me in 1956-59. I could see seven figure log books pushed to the end of a desk, to make room for a Brunsviga calculator and a small Curta equivalent nearby waiting to slide into someone's pocket. Wild T2 theodolites and Telurometer EDMs should have been in the storeroom and Multiplex men with their red and blue spectacles who didn't leave their darkened den, but I knew where they were. A slotted template assembly lay on the floor upstairs near a group of neatly uniformed WRAACS, who performed their work with quiet efficiency. What do they do at night I wondered, do they ever go to the Shamrock, I don't think so, I'd never seen them there.

The stage in the Ballroom has somehow vanished, but I could still see Jock McCabe, happy as you like serving a beer in the OR's Mess. My congratulations to the Fortuna management team, who in their wisdom, had decided that Jock, being a keen drinker would really enjoy life as a barman! They were right!

As I looked over the gathering of guests in the car park from the first floor balcony, I realised that most were younger than me. They had been a major part of the many changes that had occurred in mapping methods over the last half century, from graphical to digital, from calculators to computers, from stars to satellites, from standard mapping to top secret stuff and from service to civilian control. Where would it all end?

Later in the day I strolled, the now not so well kept grounds of Fortuna to locate the site of my "Masonite Mansion"- the small masonite hut I had shared with a tall skinny fair haired 24 year old mate from Perth WA, Corporal Bob Skitch. Of course the hut has long gone, but I could easily identify where it used to be. I didn't bother to photograph the now waterless weed ridden lake near by, preferring to remember it as the beautiful place it used to be.

To end the day Bob showed us a glimpse of DIGO'S new home, east of Bendigo. Just one glimpse of this architectural mystery only confirmed how happy I felt about once being part of beautiful Fortuna during the reign of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

P.S. I wouldn't admit this to my psychiatrist, but I did enjoy my imaginations as much as the real world on DIGO day. Maybe old age is supposed to be like that?

ESCAPE MAPS

Ed: *Many who served in RA Svy during the post WW2 period, at least up to the 1970s would have seen or even souvenired, an 'escape map'. I have one and I am not sure at what part of my career I acquired it. It is of French Indo*

China, of 'Tongkeng' Province bordering China and is printed on Japara silk, both sides at the scale of 1:1,000,000. It is very colourful, contoured and hill shaded with red and black cultural detail, blue ocean etc. What I find most remarkable is the near perfect registration of colours. Although it doesn't say, I suspect it is of US origin. I doubt that products of this nature were produced at the then LHQ Cartographic Company in Bendigo. How was it printed? I have no idea. Some form of screen printing perhaps. It is against this background that I include the following account that has been sent to me by a couple of people believing it to be true although I have some doubts as to its complete veracity. Others may care to comment....

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests (POW's) of the Third Reich and the Crown was casting-about for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where-stuff-was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses', where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks: They make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear-out rapidly and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's CIA) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded and as many times as needed and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the

International Red Cross, to prisoners of war. Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add a playing token, containing a small magnetic compass and a two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together.

Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency were hidden within the piles of Monopoly money! British and American air-crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set, by means of a tiny red dot, cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch and located in the corner of the Free Parking square!

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by these rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war. The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

<p>LIST OF RASVY ASSOCIATION (QLD BRANCH) MEMBERS AS AT 15 FEB 2009</p>
--

Life Members (x21)
 ANDERSON, Ed
 ANDERSON, Les
 BLAIN, Milton
 BROCK, Jim
 CAMERON, Curly
 COOK, Garney
 COOPER, Doover
 DEVENCORN, Lionel

FISHER, Neville
 GRAY, John
 JEFFREY, Bill
 KUBLER, Darby
 LAFFERTY, Bill
 LAMBERT, Jeff
 LANCASTER, Chris
 LONG, Percy
 MCCLURE, Artie
 PARKINSON, Stuart
 SHAW, Ken
 SMITH, Les
 VAN SENDEN, Col

Honorary Members (x4)

CHAMBERS, Lorraine
 LAING, Dawn
 STEDMAN, Joan
 TODD, Gloria

**Ordinary Members (Financial post Sep.2008)
(x67) (membership expiry date shown)**

2010 ANDERSON, Dave
 2009 ANDERSON, Greg
 2012 ASHBY, John
 2009 BALL, Peter
 2012 BARRIE, John
 2009 BATES-BROWNSWORD, Peter
 2010 BEARD, John
 2009 BELLETTE, Bruce
 2011 BLASKETT, Peter
 2016 BOWERS, Bruce
 2010 BOYD, Bill
 2011 BROAD, Barry
 2009 CAIRNEY, Alex
 2010 CAMPBELL, Stan
 2009 CHAPMAN, Robert
 2010 COSFORD, Brian
 2009 CREEDY, Adrian
 2011 CROSS, Peter
 2011 DOWD, Graeme
 2009 EVANS, Austin
 2010 GILBERT, John
 2007 GREGOR, Dennis
 2011 GILL, Jim
 2010 GLANVILLE, Alan
 2009 HARDER, Tony
 2009 HARGREAVES, Colin
 2009 HEBBLETHWAITE, David
 2009 HOOK, John
 2009 HUMPHREY, Jim
 2009 HUNTER, John
 2010 HUTCHINGS, Ian
 2009 HUTCHINGS, Warner
 2009 KAVANAGH, Alan
 2010 KAY, John
 2009 KNIGHT, Greg
 2010 KNOTT, Penny
 2009 LUTWYCHE, Barry
 2009 LYONS, Ken
 2010 McCOSKER, Michael
 2011 MCMILLAN, Ross
 2010 MCMILLAN-KAY, Robert
 2009 MITCHELL, Peter
 2009 MOODY, Kevin
 2011 O'SHANNESSEY, Dave
 2009 OPDAM, Hank

2011 OSTERHAGE, Peter
2009 PARTRIDGE, Brian
2010 PATTERSON, Lloyd
2012 READ, Ian
2009 RODRIGUEZ, Peter
2012 SANKEY, David
2010 SHIPLEY, Rowan
2009 SKITCH, Bob
2010 SMALL, Grant
2009 SMITHWICK, Ross
2009 SOUTAR, Diana
2009 SYMMONS, Mick
2009 THISELTON, Ian
2009 THOROGOOD, Frank
2009 TICEHURST, Noel
2009 TIMMINS, George
2012 TURNER, Jeff
2010 VIRTUE, Alan
2009 WESTON, Kym
2009 WETZIG, Bruce
2009 WILSON, Bryan
2009 WILSON, Steven
2010 WINTERFLOOD, Douglas

1998 FITZGERALD, G
1998 JENNER, Allan
0000 FOX, Bill
0000 GIBSON, Jim
0000 HENNEL, S
0000 HOLT, Neville
0000 JONES, Max
1997 LEAR, Bill
1999 MATHEWS, Joseph
1998 MCDERMANT, Duncan
2001 MCILWAIN, Arthur
0000 MOORE, Ron
0000 MOSS, S
1999 O'KEEFFE, Noel
0000 POWELL, Bert
1997 PUGH, Colin
0000 ROGERSON, Alan
0000 SMITH, Herb
0000 SQUIRES, J
0000 VAN DER KEVIE, J
0000 WALKER, Lyall
2002 WALSH, Paddy
0000 WILLIAMS, L

Non-Financial Members (<1yr) (x13)

2008 CHILCOTT, Wally
2008 DUNIAM, Michael
2008 ELLEM, Tony
2008 FOXWELL, John
2008 GEE, Tony
2008 GORDON, Bruce
2008 HOCKINGS, Daryl
2008 HOPES, Paul
2008 JACKSON-HOPE, Richard
2008 JOHNSON, Brian
2008 MINELLI, Bronette
2008 MOORHEAD, Col
2008 PARKER, Barry

Non-Financial Members (1-<3yrs) (x13)

2006 BETTRIDGE, John
2007 CATTELL, John
2006 COOK, Jim
2007 FITZGERALD, Ian
2007 HENDRICK, Dawn
2006 JOHNSTON, Dave
2006 LANGEBERG, Perry
2007 MITCHELL, Jim
2006 STANMORE, Derek
2007 TANGEY, Peter
2007 THUN, Wolf
2006 WILLIS, Doug

Non-Financial Members (3-<6yrs) (x5)

2005 HENRY, Andrew
2005 RADFORD, Daryn
2005 SARGEANT, Kalen
2004 SMITH, John
2003 WARWICK, Peter

Others (>6yrs or names only) (x29)

0000 CARPENTER, Ian
0000 COMERFORD, Ted
2001 CONROY, Robert
0000 CUNNING, A J
1999 DAVIS, J M
0000 FAULKES, George

PHOTO GALLERY



April 2009

Jazz at the Glen – Sunday 15 March 2009



The Jazz Group – Barbara Bates Brownsword playing the Tuba on the left and Peter on the drums towards the right

Derek Chambers Award event – 28 November 2008



Sig Michael (Jack) Mealin congratulated by Bob Skitch



L – R David Flood, Peter Bates-Brownsword, WO1 Peter Coles, Ian Thiselton, Alex Cairney, Captain Sarah Reynolds, Barry Lutwyche, Sig Michael (Jack) Mealin, Bob Skitch.

Dedication of the RA Survey Commemorative Plaque at Victoria Barracks, Sydney – 1 July 2008 -



2nd Military District Band resplendent in their scarlet uniforms.



The NSW Association Banner prominently displayed.

**Dedication of the RA Survey Commemorative Plaque at Victoria Barracks, Sydney
- 1 July 2008 -**



Brigadier D.A Creagh giving his address with Mr Bruce Williams MC.



Attendees at the ceremony.



Attendees at the ceremony.
Note Tom Royle standing next to Richard Jackson-Hope



NSW Association President Richard (Jacko) Jackson-Hope welcoming the gathering.



Ted Hunter, long time member and Past President of the NSW Association giving the Corps address.



Brigadier Creagh and Mr Ted Hunter unveiling the plaque. The plaque is a replica of the commemorative plaque installed at the AWM in 2007.