



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS  
ASSOCIATION  
Queensland Branch  
**BULLETIN**

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053

Website: [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)

**ANZAC EDITION – No 41**

**APRIL 2010**

**OUR NEXT FUNCTION – Gourmet BBQ at the home of Tony and Loretta Gee.**

When: Saturday 17 April 2010

Where: 50 Bibimulya St, Bellara, Bribie Island

Time: 1230

**RSVP: 12 April 2010**

Catering: BYO beverages , Ladies please bring a salad or desert. Liaise with Loretta on 3408 8467.

**ANZAC DAY 2010**

The clarion call again goes out – join your mates for our Anzac Day celebration on Sunday 25 April. Again we start with the Dawn Service at 0500h at the Enoggera Engineer Memorial – always a truly moving event. This year Barry Lutwyche is to place 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.

There has been a substantial change in march format this year with all WW2 veterans marching 'in block' at the front with those who cannot march following in busses or vehicles. The City parade commences at 1000h with the Air Force leading, then Navy, then Army. RASvy Assn is in the post WW2 group, and is unit #120 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 (#119) and before the RASigs Assn (#121). FUP is in George St. between Charlotte and Elizabeth Streets. Keep an eye open for our distinctive Banner. Bob Skitch is confirmed as our leader this year. Ross Smithwick 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). The bar opens at 1300h. 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 the hotel from the car park) 1 Topo Svy Sqn members are particularly welcome.

**Please note** - All transport is by private arrangement.

**March Protocol** – There are important changes to the March Protocol this year. The protocol that now applies to all marchers is on page 13 of this Bulletin.

**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.)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** With this issue I have taken to including colour photos within the columns of the text. Many of you receive your Bulletin in hard copy by Australia post. This is your perfect right and we will continue to do that. Unfortunately our hard copy process Xerox does not permit colour and for that reason we introduced the Photo Gallery colour supplement. Nevertheless. Some photos are best included with the supporting text. Colour copy is always available on our website – [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org).

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

## CALENDAR 2010

**Saturday 17 April: Gourmet BBQ** at the home of Tony and Loretta Gee.

**Sunday 25 April: ANZAC Day** – 0500 Dawn Service at RAE Enoggera followed by breakfast in the Sportsmen's Club; 1030 City March followed by Anzac Day lunch at Alderley Arms Hotel commencing 1300.

**Friday 25 June: Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner** at the United Service Club

**Friday 2 July:** Celebration of the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RA Survey at Bendigo. **Full details taken from January 10 Magna Carto at the end of this Bulletin.**

**Saturday 4 Sept :**Our traditional **Reunion and Annual General Meeting**. This year the



event is to be at the **Kilcoy RSL** to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of training of the Northern Command Field Survey Unit, later to become 5 Field Survey Company – 'Queensland's own'. The event has been held annually by your Association in various locations 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. In 2009 the event was held at the Gaythorne RSL and was a great success. especially so because it included the presentation of the Derek Chambers Award. It is the intention that in future the award will be conferred at the Military Map Makers Dinner. 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](mailto:petenbarb@dovenetq.net.au)  
**Vice President** Alex Cairney (Ph 3397 7583) email: [alex.cairney@hotmail.com](mailto:alex.cairney@hotmail.com)  
**Secretary** Barry Lutwyche , OAM (Ph 3264 2191) email: [rasvy\\_qld@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rasvy_qld@yahoo.com.au)  
... [sec.qld@rasurvey.org](mailto:sec.qld@rasurvey.org)  
**Treasurer** Ross Smithwick (Ph 3356 5786) email: [rdsmithwick@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rdsmithwick@ozemail.com.au)

## COMMITTEE

**Member** Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026) email: [rockthis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rockthis@bigpond.net.au)  
**Member** Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597) email: [jimgill@hotmail.net.au](mailto:jimgill@hotmail.net.au)  
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(mob 0427 377 226)  
**North Qld representative** Dennis Gregor (Ph mob 0412 756 196) email: [dgregor@easynet.net.au](mailto:dgregor@easynet.net.au)

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

## 1 TOPO SVY SQN

**Squadron OC** Major Troy Francis  
**Squadron SSM** WO1 Stephen Hill, CSM (Ph 3332 7564) (mob 0438 175 977)  
email: [stephen.hill1@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephen.hill1@defence.gov.au)

## OUR HISTORY PROJECT – WHAT DID WE DO, 1946 – 1996?

Our history project has been updated with substantial entries from Peter Jensen (he's been everywhere man!), Frank Lenane, Frank Fisher, Tim Allanson, Mitch Oake and Arthur Hensen. Arthur's contribution is from the South Australian Association's own intensive investigation into the history of the RA Survey units located in South Australia. The fully updated version can now be found on our website, [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org) in pdf. You will observe

that the SA file now has an entry for every year from 1946 to 1996. SA is the only State to achieve this distinction, although quite a number of the entries are sparse in detail. At least they have a project name and a location and one or two words about what sort of operation was undertaken, eg, tellurometer traversing, map control, field completion etc. It would be nice to have a little more detail such as who took part (at least some names), the field OC or OIC, air support, outline tech information. Peter Jensen has been able to provide a good deal of the latter in many instances. Association members in all States are asked to check the years in which they served on field operations and reflect on who they served with, who their boss was and what they did. The present entries can be used as a memory jogger. I have had a small contribution from Mitch Oake who served with 4 Squadron in South Australia. Small though it may be it is nevertheless valuable.

Email your contribution direct to Bob Skitch [bob@skitch.me](mailto:bob@skitch.me) or enter your data on our website – [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org) . Our website contains state summaries of what we have compiled so far. There are plenty of gaps – have a go at filling them in!

### NOTICES

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009 – 2010      \$**

In the words of Devey – ***Don't go to sleep on your membership! Keep in touch with your Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.*** We have noted a fall-off of paid-up members and perhaps that is because our Bulletins are freely available to all on our website. But we do need your subscription if only because it is the paid up members who represent the true strength of the Association and with that can enjoy the privileges of our subsidized functions. Most of our functions are now to some extent subsidized from our sponsorship account and while we will never turn away a past member of the Survey Corps it is very appropriate that those Queensland based past RA Survey persons in attending subsidized functions meet their paid-up obligation. Furthermore there are cash costs involved in running the Association – postage, PO box rental, website hosting, bank charges, printing and stationery, ANZAC Day wreath, occasional donations (Red Cross etc) and presentations and awards with associated engraving.

Our financial year runs from September to September. Subscription is but \$15.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Subscription is waived for veterans aged 75 years and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association. Pay-up time was at the AGM 5 Sept 09 but it is not too late now.

**LAST FRIDAYS**

Last Fridays continue at the Gaythorne RSL. Numbers attending have improved in recent times. Pop along and have a beer or a softie with your mates. Visitors should check first with Rock Thiselton Ph 3353 1026

**BERETS – BERETS – BERETS**

Our stocks of our ever popular beret are now nearly depleted. However, stocks are held at Christie's in Sydney. Be distinctive in the RA Survey Association headdress. Contact Alex Cairney email [alex.cairney@hotmail.com](mailto:alex.cairney@hotmail.com)  
**Note:** Christies can be contacted as follows:  
 Unit 4D; 1-7 Unwin Bridge Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044. Phone 02 9519 0784

**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 BADGE

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

### RA SURVEY ASSOCIATION PLAQUE

An Association Plaque that incorporates the three overlapping badges, the theodolite badge of pre-WW2, the wartime colour patch and the post WW2 RA Svy badge is available from the Queensland Association. The cost of the plaque is \$50.00 plus postage. Place orders with our Secretary, Barry Lutwyche.

### ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF

Cost is \$25.00. Place your order with the Queensland Association. Phone or email 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](mailto:phipsys@tpg.com.au). Price on application.

### THE 1 TOPO CHALLENGE COIN

**Ed:** Lieutenant Matthew Dobney of 1 Topo asks that the following be disseminated to Survey Association members. Apparently Challenge Coins are all the 'go' with military units these days.



The coins are for sale to members for \$10 00 each. Orders are to be placed via email to CPL Amanda Iglesias in the 1 Topo orderly room. Email: [amanda.iglesias@defence.gov.au](mailto:amanda.iglesias@defence.gov.au).

### THE PNG PLAQUE PROJECT

I think we have finally passed through the final hoop in getting this project approved by the PNG Government and the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC). The final hoop was passed in having the Port Moresby RSL write to the NCDC assuring them of their support for the project and **then** having the NCDC acknowledge that support in writing. The final approval has taken the form of a letter from Ms Leslie Alu, the City Manager, to Mr Joseph Filippi, President of the Port Moresby RSL Sub Branch which reads as follows:

*Dear Sir*

*RE: COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE APPROVAL*

*Please accept my sincere apologies for the very late response to your various letters and trust that this will not happen again.*

*I hereby give approval for the installation of the Commemorative Plaque to be dedicated to the Survey Corps Units. I advise that you liaise with Angela Mageto, Director Regulatory Services with regard to Physical Planning and Building requirements that may apply before proceeding with the installation.*

*Please convey my apologies and approval to the Association of Surveyors as well.*

*Yours sincerely....Leslie Alu, City Manager.*

Within a day of that letter being received, Mr Masang Bangindo, President of the Association of Surveyors PNG emailed Ms Angelo Mageto, forwarding the NCDC letter to her and requesting Physical Planning and Building requirements for us to proceed with the installation. Masang is also a principal of AL Surveys (formerly Arman and Larmer). We now await that advice being received. I should add also that Mr Mike Larmer, now retired, has been a strong supporter of our project.

Joe Filippi in his final email gives credit to John Robinson and his efforts over the last month or so. I am not aware of Mr Robinson but I thank him for his effort as well as all those who have pulled together to bring our project close to fruition. The list is considerable.

The plaque is to be placed in the Koki Remembrance Park and the target date for the dedication is Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The Port Moresby RSL is to act as the 'agent during the installation and unveiling service'. It is the intention of the RSL to invite His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Paulius Matane, GCL, GCMG, KStJ, Governor General of Papua New Guinea to do the unveiling as the representative of the Queen, and other country representatives to attend the ceremony.

It is just five years since I initiated this project in a letter to the PNG Government and a follow-up letter to the Association of Surveyors PNG. Since then there have been fifty or more emails and letters pass between the various agencies in PNG and me. This is a national RA Survey project and we have the commitment of all of our state RA Survey Associations.

There has been some regret expressed by some state associations that the post WW2 activities of RA Survey, in particular those of 8 Fd Svy Sqn cannot be recognized by the plaque. The original intention of the plaque was to recognize those survey units that served in the active theatre of war during WW2 and that has been the basis of our negotiation with the PNG Government and the NCDC. Accordingly the plaque is being installed in a 'Remembrance Park'.....Bob Skitch

## JAZZ AT THE GLEN

This outstanding event took place at the aptly named 'Shady Glen' the home of Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword on 29 November 2009. It was attended by many of Peter's and Barbara's friends and neighbours as well as members of our Association – Kym and Faye Weston, Alex and Donna Cairney with their daughter Meredith, Ian and Jan Hutchings, Stan and Helen Campbell, Barry Lutwyche, Bob Skitch and Beth and Grant Small. It was a beautiful pleasantly sunny day, and the Brownsword's extensive grounds were verdant green. Sipping the occasional vintage white (or red) in the pleasant company of old friends made it an afternoon to remember. The band that so well entertained us was 'No Strings Attached' concert jazz band conducted by Annie Rossouw. Peter says it is a community band and for Jazz at the Glen it comprised between twenty and thirty players

including some teenage children – playing jazz instead of rock – good to see.

A selection of photos can be found in the photo gallery.

## PERSONALIA and other Jottings

**Ace Evans** emails: Thoroughly enjoyed the latest (Bulletin). Have trouble attending functions these days as caring for Trudy is a full time exercise these days. Have had a recent lens replacement in one eye with great success and looking forward to having the other done 7 Jul. I have the sight of a twenty year old according to the specialist today. So shortly I should not need glasses. What Joy!!! It is sad to see old faces disappearing John Hogan & Acki. I wonder sometimes how much longer I might have as I'm an OBE club member. I must respond to Bob Skitch with what I did in the Corps before it's too late. Best wishes to all.....Ace Evans  
**Ed:** Ace – I look forward to receiving your 'what you did' contribution.

**Peter and Dell Osterhage** have sent by snail mail their post Christmas newsletter, probably not just to me but to other Survey friends. We all knew that Peter and Dell had sailed off into the sunset some time last year and that is about as much as we knew. So read this from their newsletter (bordered not with holly or Santa Clauses but with palm trees). "*We had a pretty amazing year last year and this year has the promise of more of the same. We left Brisbane at the end of April and sailed up the Queensland coast and then around the top and across to Darwin where we arrived at the end of June in company with some other yachts. On the 18<sup>th</sup> July around 120 yachts including ourselves left Darwin and headed for Saumlaki in Indonesia. We travelled through the islands of Indonesia and arrived in Malaysia at the end of October and then sailed the Malacca Straits and now sit on an island called Langkawi which is only a few miles from the Thailand border. The experience has been wonderful and highlights were the Banda (Spice) Islands, the orangutans in Kumai, the Komodo dragons and the wonderful people of Indonesia.*

*This year we will be sailing the waters of Thailand around Phuket, making trips back to*



Penang to renew our Thai visas. We hope also to do some land trips to places like Vietnam and Cambodia and wherever else we can get cheap flights to”.

“Living up here is quite cheap and the food is great and also cheap so we don’t have to cook much as we eat out a lot. We had a trip home for Christmas – we visited Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and back to Adelaide then flew back via Perth and Singapore.”

Peter and Dell go on to report on their high performing family – all doing very well in their various pursuits. Peter and Dell have an email address – [pacific.express@hotmail.com](mailto:pacific.express@hotmail.com) and they have a website [www.dellandpeter.com](http://www.dellandpeter.com) where you can read all about their adventures.

**Ed:** Peter – I met your successor in Master Builders at the United Service Club, Paul Bidwell, with whom I worked in the public service a few years back....Bob

**John Leworthy** emailed this photo:



John proudly marching and carrying his father’s 7 Brigade colours in the forecourt of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Anzac Day last year. Note the purple beret and Survey Corps badge.

**The National Vietnam Veterans Museum (text from the Museum website)**

**Ed:** John Leworthy has taken an active interest in the museum and is anxious to develop a RA Survey display of photographs and other memorabilia within it. Photos present little problem since the collection put together by Lloyd Pattison offers a wide range of options.

This nationally recognized museum is dedicated to the preserving and displaying of photographs, memorabilia, vehicles and

aircraft that accurately detail the history of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1972. Located on **Phillip Island, Victoria** the Museum was officially opened by the Victorian Premier, Mr Steve Bracks MP on the 9th March 2007. From its initial concept – a Landrover and trailer touring Australia – equipment, photos and stories were donated and added to the collection. The display area contains a Centurion tank, 105 mm Howitzer, several Land Rovers, trucks, an AH-1G HueyCobra Gunship with a three barrel 20mm cannon, and capable of carrying 38 x 2.75” Folding Fin Aerial Rockets and 8 Precision Guided Missiles.

**Buy A Brick Campaign:** The 'Buy a Brick' campaign remembers Veterans and their families, as well as raising funds for the Museum. The 2007 Museum Development Program is underway – and waiting for your plaque. A wide range of badges, souvenirs, stickers, belt buckles, caps, books, clothing and much more is available at our online e-shop for both domestic and overseas customers.



Our RA Svy plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Museum in good company.

**Brian Mead** in Western Australia reports on the Toodyay/Booragoon bushfires that occurred in early January.....

**Warren Hall** has lost a large water tank, fencing, sheds from his country property. He has received fuel and food vouchers and a small grant from the Federal Govt. The RSL have been in touch and will help with building materials and a new water tank. Warren is in good spirits and has received several messages from old friends.

**Colin Yandell** who also lives in Toodyay escaped the fires but is helping with community support.

Lori and Alex Cook (Booragoon Upper Swan) were not threatened by the local fires but could see the flames from their home. The closest contact that they had with the Booragoon fires was with the low flying water bearing FESA helicopters. In general, the wind direction was moving away

from their home and vineyard property. Some 'tourists' invaded their privacy along Nolan Avenue, to see the fires and eventually left.

Overall - good news for all concerned.

### **Alex Cairney & Barry Lutwyche**

Alex and Barry were at 1 RTB Kapooka in February. One of Barry's son's mates was graduating and they took the two boys to Wagga Wagga via Sydney and the Museum at the School of Military Engineering. Barry took the photo of the etched RA Survey Badge in one of the glass door panels. Members of Survey Corps contributed to the cost of this door in the early 1990s.

**Ed:** From 1978 onwards the Survey Corps provided a sergeant and four corporals to the training staff of 1RTB, for a small corps a very heavy commitment. Of course most of us in the Corps from 1955 onwards did our recruit training at Kapooka.

Barry points out that the Geomatic Engineering Wing (GEW – once the School of Military Survey) is but one wing of SME.



The glass doors of the Soldiers Chapel at 1RTB



Meeting with the NSW Association around the table L to R – Barry, Alex, Frank Fisher, Noel Ticehurst, Richard Jackson-Hope, Phil Bannister, Peter Raue.

**Stan and Helen Campbell** are gluttons for cruising – and making snap decisions. Visiting the home show recently and put off by the large crowds they grabbed a handful of brochures and headed home. One of the

brochures advertised a APT river cruise of the Danube that will take them from Nurnberg down stream to Budapest thence to Bucharest in Rumania. Then they fly to Istanbul and visit Gallipoli before returning home. All this in addition to their sea cruise from Perth in July. Despite this we will see them at some of our planned functions for 2010

**John Sinclair:** Bill Boyd sent the following:

I would expect that you would have met John Sinclair at some stage when he was an RASvy officer, or even when he was here on exchange from the Canadian Engineers. He was on exchange at Bendigo in 1969 when I went to Canada from October to February 1970. He was at the school as an RASvy major at a time when I was at the Det. Accompanying the message was an article from the 'Niagara This Week' reviewing a book written by John called 'One Hundred Years of Canadian Military Mapping – 1903 to 2003'. The article states... *As the title suggests the book is the story of the military mapping in Canada told through the eyes of those who did it. Sinclair interviewed seventy people collecting personal anecdotes and narratives..... Sinclair describes the book as a high adventure interesting story. ....Sinclair knows the story because for years he lived it. After graduating from university Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) John C. Sinclair CD went on to have careers as a land surveyor, mapper, civil engineer, soldier, teacher and Ontario Hydro project manager. He has been a commanding officer of the unit responsible for mapping....* The article makes no mention of his ten years with RA Svy.

**Ed:** I knew John quite well in Bendigo. He was a likeable bloke. He told me once that he came to Australia to remove his children from the teenage vices of Canada to allow them to grow up in the healthy environment of Bendigo. I think he succeeded.

### **FORTUNA (from Magna Carto 14 Feb 10)**

The future of Fortuna continues to attract local attention with two new developments since the last Magna Carto. First, the City of Greater Bendigo Council rejected taking on sole responsibility and then yesterday the revelation of an interested private bidder appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser. (article edited)



**Businessman wants Villa:** A Melbourne businessman wants to buy the historic Fortuna Villa and open the building up to the public. Dale O'Sullivan told the Advertiser he wanted to buy Fortuna Villa for \$3 million as a representative of the Richard Anderson Trust. 'That is what it is worth and it would



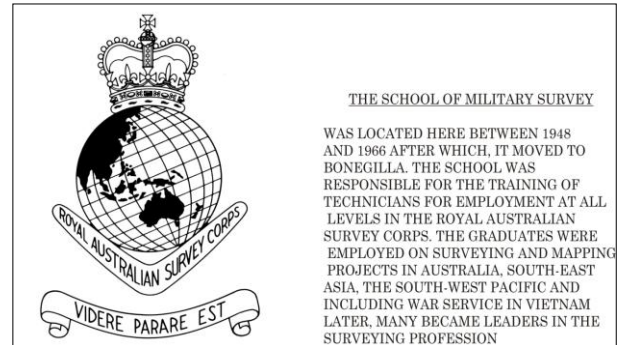
not take long to make the money back,' he said. Mr Anderson said he had made his interest in the heritage property known to the City of Greater Bendigo and that he believed that the building would be better off in private ownership. 'Private ownership is driven by profits, whereas the government will just leave it there' he said. 'As far as I know we are the only ones that have put money on the table.' Mr O'Sullivan said he believed the council should have informed the community that an offer for Fortuna had been made.....'

City of Greater Bendigo Director of City Futures, Stan Liacos, said that Council was aware of Mr O'Sullivan's interest in the property. 'We were seeking general interest from the community,' he said. 'He was directed to the Department of Defence'. In January the Council decided against buying the building which is owned by the Department of Defence, but instead to push for support from State and federal governments to secure the asset for the community.

### Commemorative Plaque at Balcombe Barracks

**Don Swiney** advises: The ex Army Apprentice Association has proposed to place a plaque on one of the wing walls that are on each side of the Commemorative Gates at the entrance to Mace Oval at the site of the old Balcombe Camp. We have been asked along with the Signallers and the Bandsmen to install a similar plaque and have them all done at the same time. Now is the right time as the present Chief of Army and, I understand, the next Chief of the Defence Force is an Ex-Apprentice (a bricklayer as it happens). Representatives from the Ex-Apprentice Association are meeting with Lt Gen Gillespie on February 19th and would like to present a complete proposal. The plaques are to be 600mm square in bronze and I would propose that the layout of our plaque be as indicated. We are restricted to about 60 words and if we are to follow the lead of the Apprentices

School (and I believe we should), half is taken up by the Corps badge.



This is Don's version of the proposed plaque, however, the ACT Newsletter has published a different version as follows:

At the southern end of Balcombe Barracks the School of Military Survey was established in 1948 moving to Bonegilla in 1966. Soldiers allocated to the Royal Australian Survey Corps completed their basic training in topographical mapping and charting here before being posted to any of the Corps' units throughout Australia. During their career they returned from time to time for advanced and specialized training with the practical aspects conducted in the nearby Dromana Valley.

Graduates were involved in mapping and charting projects throughout Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia, many of the South West Pacific countries and some saw operational service in Vietnam.

Their expertise made the Corps a world leader in the mapping and charting sciences. Many left the Corps either at the end of their six year engagement or later, and became leaders of their profession.

Erected by the Royal Australian Survey Corps Associations.

**Ed:** Far too many words – I think it is back to the drawing boards fellows!



Commemorative Gate at Balcombe. Proposed plaques left to right – School of Signals, Army Apprentice School, School of Military Survey, Army School of Music.

**Our Purple Beret** – We gave one to the Gaythorne RSL. They replied....

On behalf of the Gaythorne RSL I wish to thank your Association for the kind donation of the Corps Beret. It will be displayed along with



*other Corps headdresses either in the foyer of the Club or in our other display case upstairs in the exTAB Sportman's Bar.*

*Regards...Ken Cullen – Deputy President and Memorabilia Officer*

**Gary Hunter:** Survey Corps has been a good start to many a post-RA Survey career.



Associate Professor Gary Hunter PhD, MSC, LS, B Surv (hon) is an outstanding case in point. Garry served as a topographic surveyor from 1971 to 1977. On leaving the Corps he worked as a survey assistant with the

Lilydale council and then as a graduate surveyor with Victorian State Rivers. Qualified as a licensed surveyor in 1984 he joined the Victorian Lands Department. He moved into academia with the University of Melbourne as a research fellow continuing from 1990 to 1996 as a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Geomatics to 2000. His career continued as an Associate Professor and Reader to 2009 and is now Consultant and Honorary Principal Fellow in the Department of Geomatics, School of Engineering, University of Melbourne. Gary is the author of many papers, serves on the editorial boards of many professional journals and has received a number of honours and awards. In his non-academic life he is the community member of the Mornington Peninsula Health Network and serves with Legacy.

Well done Garry!

**Bob McMillan-Kay** sent a letter with a few photographs updating his recent activities. Bob's Maryborough Museum is in storage while he is negotiating premises in town. His interest has turned to Z Special Unit that trained on Fraser Island during WW2 and used the local airport then known as RAAF Station-Maryborough. Bob and his partner Anne have been to New Zealand twice in 2009 for family reasons giving Bob a chance to visit the NZ Air Force Museum at Christchurch. Bob had great fun on a WW2 Mosquito Bomber Simulator and managed to sink four German battle ships! In December on a return visit Bob and Anne visited the 'Tanks for Everything' display and drove a

Centurion Tank – Bob owns a Saracen in Maryborough.



**Anne and Bob and the Centurion Tank**

Bob had a five minute lesson on the Centurion and then one circuit of the track limited only by cost – it wasn't a cheap exercise. Anne chose a 16 tonne British AFV 432 APC.

Bob and Anne attended the Survey Troop reunion in August and found it an uplifting experience, meeting all his old comrades of forty years back. Bob of course has written and published his Vietnam story – see box in the Notices on page 3 of this Bulletin. It is an excellent read.

### **CSM**

I always thought that 'CSM' stood for Company Sergeant Major. Now I find that it also stands for 'Conspicuous Service Medal. Recently appointed SSM of I Topo Svy Sqn WO1 Stephen Hill was so awarded some years ago. Belated congratulations Stephen from all of us in the Association.....Bob Skitch

### **From the other State Associations**

#### **ACT Newsletter – March 2010 (On our website)**

- An RASvy connection to the GPS System – accidentally left out paras to previous article by Peter Jensen.
- Tall Tales and True – Retail Experience in Mauritius – an amusing account by John Mobbs.
- An Introduction to the Survey Corps 1959/60 by Don Swiney – 15/59 Basic Course.
- Photo Gallery featuring old photos of the Balcombe school and others.

**Magna Carto – February 2010 – NOT** on our website due to a somewhat parochial attitude by the Ex Fortuna Association. Some content reproduced in this Bulletin.

## VALE

**Lionel Devencorn** passed away peacefully in his sleep on Mon the 15th February. Lionel was 93. Lionel was a WW2 5 Aust Field Survey Company veteran and a great supporter of the Association since its inception in 1947. He was also a great cartoonist and his specialty was in cartoons depicting army life in WW2, signing himself off as 'Devey'. Perhaps a fitting memorial for Lionel is to reproduce a selection of his cartoons in this Bulletin and you will find these in our photo gallery.

**Ross McMillan:** Ken Lyons adds this postscript to the passing of Ross McMillan: Like the infantry General reported by Noel Sproles I also considered Ross to be one of the finest WO1s in the army. It was my honour to recommend him for promotion to WO1 during his service in Vietnam – I was a very lucky OC to have him as the Survey Troop WO1 – he had the respect of all. Vale.....Ross McMillan  
Ken Lyons

**Harry Raisbeck:** Gary Warnest reports the passing of Harry Raisbeck, another great personality of the Corps. Harry was to be 100 on 22 March this year but unfortunately he did not quite make it, passing away suddenly today (7 March) at Cheltenham in Melbourne. Harry was for many years an 'Iceberg' swimming each day in the sea at Brighton regardless of the weather.

Harry served as a Captain in the Survey Corps from 1942 to 1962 as an outstanding cartographer with much of his service at Fortuna and Victoria Barracks. Many examples of his outstanding hand lettering exist including that shown on the 1:1mile sheets of Adelaide and Albury.

Harry's father John was one of the original members of the Survey Corps.

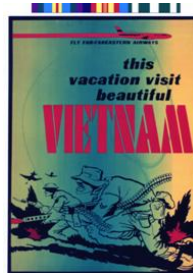
John produced the specimen map sheet of Colac used as the standard for future military maps and shown on the cover of the Mapmakers of Fortuna.

**Ed:** I met Harry once in the late fifties or early sixties at Army Headquarters when it was located at Albert Park in Melbourne. To me he seemed pretty old then, very much a father figure to we young-uns.

**Noel Sproles** adds: Alex Laing and I had to report to Harry each fortnight when we went into Victoria Barracks for pay while we were at RMIT.

I remember him as being a good bloke who was kind to young subbies.

## GROCER'S & GUNNER'S TOUR OF VIETNAM



Phil Brookes has sent the following email;

*'After the great success of the first Grocers and Gunners tour to Vietnam in August 2009, I'm leading another tour in November. Some of your members might be interested, so I've attached a flyer for your information. Would love to see a few Surveyors join us and add a bit of class.'* Phil's brochure reads...

After the great success of our first *Grocers and Gunners* Vietnam tour in August 2009, I would like you to join us on our 21 day tour **10 Nov – 1 Dec 2010**. Again, we will do it in style and retrace your service in **Saigon, Vung Tau** and **Nui Dat**.

I aim to showcase the history, culture and breathtaking scenery of this friendly and fascinating country. Your accommodation is four/five star. Restaurants have been selected for their quality and value for money.

We fly **Singapore Airlines** from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane to Saigon via Singapore. Internal travel is by air, first class rail and air-conditioned coach.

A highlight of the tour will be two days at the magnificent **Imperial Hotel** in Vung Tau (built on the site of the **Badcoe Club**), visiting Nui Dat and **Long Tan**.

In Saigon you will wander the famous boulevards such as the Rue Catinet - now Dong Khoi Street – made famous by Graham Greene and *The Quiet American*. We also visit bustling **Cholon** and explore the **Chu Chi** tunnels and the **Mekong Delta**.

We visit **Dalat**, the old French Hill station about 300 km north-west of Saigon. Dalat is a popular holiday centre for the Vietnamese with its cool climate and spectacular mountain scenery.

You will experience historic **Hoi An**. Portuguese, French, Dutch and Japanese traders have all left their mark on this UNESCO classified town.

**Hanoi** will be at its best for the city's one thousand year birthday. Compare the laid back ambience of this ancient capital with its strong French connection to the more bustling Saigon. Hanoi is a gracious, seductive city of tree-lined boulevards; an eclectic mixture of French and Asian. A

highlight of Hanoi will be a visit to the **Old Quarter**, and bustling cafes and shops.

Explore the breathtaking World heritage site of **Halong Bay**, its secluded bays and caves, and spend the night on the Bay in a four star cruise boat.

We travel to **Sapa**, near the **Chinese border**, on the elegant **Victoria Express**. This spectacular area is dominated by **the Hoang Lien Son Range, the eastern extremity of the Himalayas**. Ethnic minority tribes, particularly H'mong, dominate this part of Vietnam.

This fully escorted, all inclusive, 21 day tour (all western style breakfasts, international and internal travel, most lunches and dinners and entrance fees, Vietnam visa fee) is designed with flexibility and your comfort in mind. Time for your own leisure, exploring and optional cooking workshops will be included.

Tour price: **\$5695.00** per person in twin share

Single room supplement: **\$1695.00**

Tour price is inclusive of government taxes, airline fees and fuel surcharges only valid as of 1st Feb 2010 and is subject to change or withdrawal without notice.

If you are interested in this tour would you please contact: Phil Brookes: 0418 719 166 Email: brookes1@bigpond.net.au.

Imperial China Tours: 1300 303 101 or 02 9221 0266 Email: tony@imperialchinatours.

<p><b>THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS IN VIETNAM – THE FIRST YEAR 1966 – 1967</b></p> <p><b>Bob Skitch</b></p>
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Bob has completed his quite personal account of the first year of the deployment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Troop in Vietnam – are such accounts ever complete? It is on our website [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org) in the history section. It can be accessed through all State sub-sites. It is Bob's story as the first officer commanding the newly raised troop in October 1965, the deployment of a detachment of the troop to Vietnam in June 1966, its establishment year at Nui Dat to May 1967 and his return to Australia. The account is supported by an excellent map of Phuoc Tuy Province prepared by Graeme Dowd showing all place names mentioned in the account and survey stations established by the Troop, layout plans of the Detachment's two locations, the Task Force base as it was in April 1967 and a number of supporting documents, letters, operation orders and in particular an insightful account by Stan

Campbell of the sea voyage on the *HMAS Sydney* undertaken by Stan and Brian Firms escorting the Detachment's vehicles and stores.

Bob says it is not for him to pass judgment on his own writing – it is simply his story, all one hundred and fifty pages, (112,000 words) of it. On the website for ease of access it is in four parts; Part 1 'Genesis', Part 2 'Establishing a Role', Part 3 'Consolidation' and Part 4 'Vietnam – It Was'.

An extract on early training days follows.....

On 7 February our troop moved into barrack accommodation at Old Holsworthy, officers and warrant officers and senior NCOs into old huts and sappers and corporals into tents. We were fostered by the TF HQ. I had come to know most of the TF HQ officers and staff in December and over the following few weeks and the Q staff who in the tradition of Q staff generally seemed a fairly ordinary lot. The first week was taken up erecting tents and generally making the area habitable again – it hadn't been used for quite some time.

I should point out that in mid February there had been no announcement of a significant build-up of our battalion group already deployed in Vietnam other than providing some additional elements to the existing group. Neither had 5RAR been formally warned to replace 1RAR although it seemed obvious that they would. The TF HQ at Holsworthy had not received any formal advice that it would be deployed although most worked on the assumption that it was a distinct possibility. And, of course, the likelihood of Survey being involved in any force build-up seemed even more remote, at least to us on the ground.

We moved into a training routine the following Monday; up early, PT before breakfast and a good deal of physical activity throughout the day. We concentrated on weapons and field craft, the weapons being those allocated to the Troop on its Q Series table. They included 9mm Browning pistols for officers and warrant officers (a useless weapon), 9mm Owen Machine Carbines (OMC), the 7.62mm self loading rifle (SLR) and its bipoded automatic version the AR and, for whatever reason three anti-tank recoilless rifles (RLR). We fired all these on the Holsworthy range including the RLR that fired a small rocket projectile which we were told cost \$100.00 each at an old tank a couple of hundred metres down the range. We were allocated two projectiles each, one to get used to the weapon and the other to hopefully hit the tank. Some did but other missed and the projectile went sailing many more hundreds of metres down the



range and into the bush. Our soldiers acquitted themselves very well on the range somewhat to the surprise of WO2 Harms; especially WO2 Dave Christie who had previously qualified as a marksman. The old OMC impressed me as a very good personal weapon and some months later I was to carry one at all times in preference to the Browning pistol.

Assisting our two warrant officer directing staff was Sergeant Arthur Falk MM. I think he must have earned his Military Medal during the Malayan Emergency or maybe Indonesian Confrontation. I was told that his MM was the main reason he held the rank of sergeant having been broken back to corporal and even private a number of times for unspoken crimes. One day Sergeant Falk was taking us for a fitness run in full gear in the late afternoon when we suddenly heard that unmistakable ps-zing ps-zing uncomfortably close to our heads. We had somehow blundered onto a road behind the rather low butts of the rifle firing range. We immediately assumed the posture of a troop of goannas and made our way at a fast pace back from whence we came. Nevertheless, Sgt Falk was a pretty good digger and saw us through much of our field craft.

Field craft covered bivouacking, defence and withdrawal, ambushing, patrolling, convoy procedure including being caught in an enemy ambush, all of which came under the heading of minor infantry tactics at platoon level. We may even have practised attack procedure although that wasn't on our must-do list. I had had some exposure to platoon level tactics on my previous qualifying courses but for most of our fellows it was new territory. I recall one ambush position we took up at dusk in the bush at the back of Old Holsworthy to be attacked by hordes of mosquitoes. I don't think I have ever experienced mosquitoes so voracious and in such numbers before or since. Finally our directing staff (DS) decided enough was enough and the exercise was terminated about 10.00pm. We also practiced being at the other end of an ambush, both in vehicles on a road and on foot patrol. The army 'pam' requires the ambushed personnel to charge firing into the direction of the ambush perpetrators; it takes guts to do that!

In our final week we bivouacked as a platoon in a defensive position at a bush site west of Holsworthy called Broken Bridge. Here we located weapon pits with arcs of fire, killing grounds, platoon headquarters, communication lines and all the appurtenances of a fully defended site. We sent out screen patrols, stood to at daybreak and dusk, ate from one man ration packs and cooked on hexamine stoves. The DS and a few soldiers

from the TF HQ Company acted as enemy, keeping us awake at night. On the final morning we executed a tactical withdrawal followed by a forced march back to Old Holsworthy.



Photograph supplied by Brian Firms

**Broken Bridge – the culmination of four weeks military training – soldiers at last**

There was little left to do in the old camp. I paid my respects to the staff that had supported us and we returned to Randwick mid morning. Wendy by pre-arrangement was waiting to take me home. George Gruszka accompanied us since his plane for Melbourne and then to Bendigo was not due to depart until late afternoon.

**Kym Weston comments....**

While it is now 40 years since the first deployment of Survey to Vietnam and that deployment was 40 years since the previous deployment of a Survey unit to a theatre of war, this is still a story worth reading. At the end of his tour Bob wrote an article for the Army Journal and at various stages since then he has added, polished and revised until at last he has been happy to share his experience with a wider audience.

On the web site this story has been divided into four parts; 'Genesis', 'Establishing a Role', 'Consolidation' and 'Vietnam – It Was'. This will enable you to download and read the first part and having done that I do not doubt that most of you will be drawn to read the rest.

Both Faye and I have read the full story and I think this shows that it will appeal to an audience wider than those who went to Vietnam or who are ex members.



diminishing, added to that is the reality that we are now scattering to the extents of the continent and beyond.

This is one of those special opportunities to gather again in large numbers. The more that attend, the more significant it will be, and the more catching up with old friends will be possible.

Function return slips have been provided at the end of this newsletter and payment must be provided with the return slip by the cut off date for catering reasons. Please use your local grapevines and networks to distribute the Magna Carta and the return slip as widely as possible to anyone who you believe may be interested in attending.

### **The Anniversary Dinner**

The anniversary dinner is to be held at the "All Seasons Quality Resort", (03) 5443 8166 171 -183 Mclvor Road, Bendigo, commencing at 1930hrs. There is ample parking at the venue. Dress for this function is neat casual with some Survey Corps memorabilia if possible. There will be minimal formality at this sit down table service dinner with no seating plan. A two course, two choice meal is to be served. The initial drinks that will be provided on the tables on arrival are included in the meal cost, further drinks are available at bar prices. Please go to our reception table on arrival to collect a name tag and confirm your attendance. Seating will be round table parties of about eight. Cost of the dinner is \$50 per head. There will not be a special Port bottling for this function as things like this will be reserved for the big Centenary Function.

### **Other Activities**

#### **BENDIGO RSL**

From about 1730hrs onward "Early arrivers" are welcome to meet at the Bendigo RSL 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo 03 5442 2950. A wide range of both Chinese and traditional Ala Carte meals are available in the Bistro.

#### **BENDIGO**

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 or you may wish to just see the many changes around both the Mall area and the Market Place (Near the Railway Station).

#### **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. Best of all there are now two new cafes at the Gallery, with great views, where those who attend are encouraged to meet for morning tea or a coffee.

#### **THE BOARDWALK**

Others are encouraged to meet at the Boardwalk Cafe/Restaurant for Breakfast, Coffee or morning tea on Sunday morning. The Boardwalk is set on the shores of Lake Weeroona and is an idyllic 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 1 000hrs and arrives at the Boardwalk a little before 1030 hrs. Tram (03) 5442 2821.

### **BBQ Lunch**

A BBQ lunch is planned for Sunday 4 July . The venue is Dave Lampton-Young's Tysons Reef Hotel. Dave has been particularly helpful in providing the venue including large undercover areas in the rear beer garden and his whole largely renovated hotel at 2 Weeroona Avenue 03 5443 4856. Parking is a little more restricted along Weeroona Ave. Be quick or park at Lake Weeroona and take a walk or catch the tram that goes by the door. The function is planned from about 11 :30am-5pm and will include the cake cutting. Please wear your name tag from the night before or pickup yours if you missed the dinner. Corps memorabilia such as books, badges, ties, and plaques will also be on sale.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation bookings for the full range of accommodation 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.





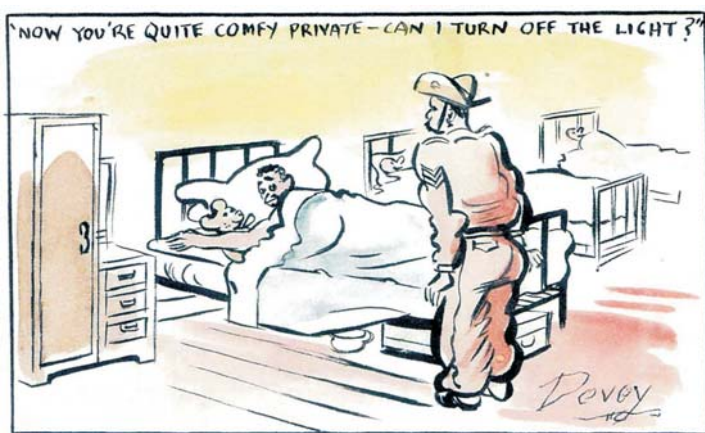
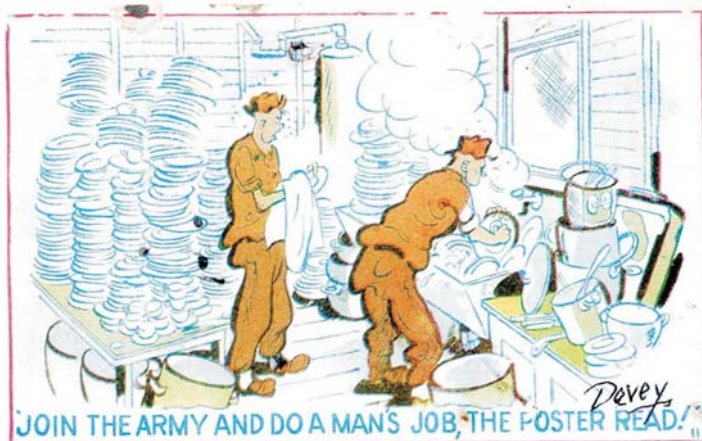
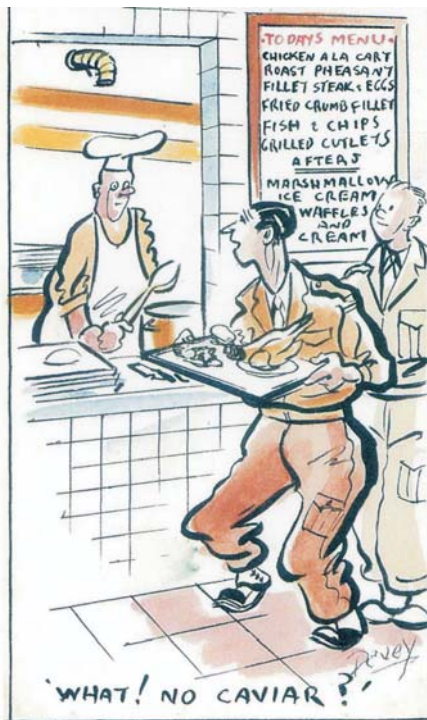
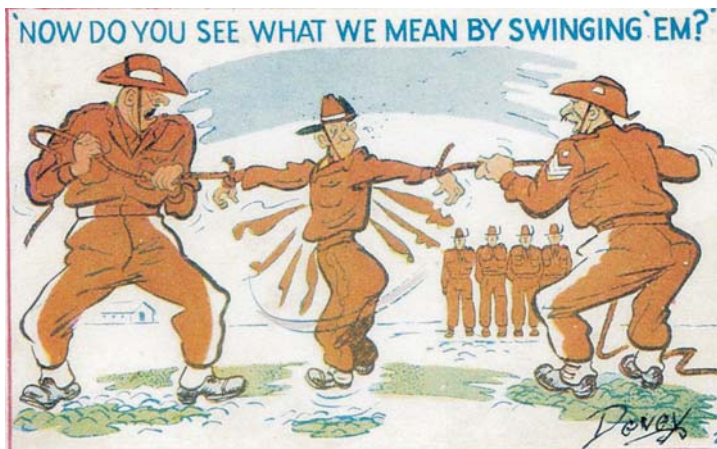
# LIONEL DEVENCORN – 'DEVEY' 1917 – 2010

'World War 2 as he saw it'  
'Rest in peace old mate'

# PHOTO GALLERY



March 2010





## JAZZ AT THE GLEN – 29 NOVEMBER 2009



Donna and Alex Cairney with daughter Meredith



Beth and Grant Small



Barbara Bates-Brownsword and her tuba



The trombonists with Barbara (tuba) and Peter Bates-Brownsword (drums)



Alex Cairney and Barry Lutwyche



Jan and Ian Hutchings and Bob Skitch



The Jazz Band in full voice