



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch
BULLETIN

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

MID-YEAR EDITION – No 53

JUNE 2013

CALENDAR 2012 (outline)

27 June (Thursday) Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner at the United Service Club.
Sept (Saturday – date TBA – 1st Sat is Dad's Day) Annual Reunion and AGM at the Kilcoy RSL.
November (TBA) Derek Chambers Award presentation.

Other functions may be advised later, e.g. BBQ sometime. Any volunteers?

OUR NEXT FUNCTION: The Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner celebrating the 98th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

When: Thursday 27th June 2013

Where: The United Service Club, 183 Wickham Terrace Brisbane in the Royal Room.

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Cost: \$60.00 per head for three course cordon bleu dinner including beverages. The event is subsidised by our Association sponsor.

Maximum seating – 30 persons.

Dress: Men – Lounge suit; Ladies – After five. Miniatures may be worn.

RSVP Sec Greg Knight (PH Mob 04 1432 1827) by Friday 21st June. This is a premier event in our Association calendar. Run on semi formal lines the port is passed in the traditional manner. This event is always great fun – ask anyone who has previously attended. Attendees may book an overnight room at the United Service Club if they would prefer not to drive home afterwards.

Guests

Dawn Laing hopes to make the trip from Canberra to attend again this year.

POST OUT OF BULLETIN

Post out of Bulletin will continue to those members who are not connected to the internet and cannot access our website. For those with internet access email advice will be sent that the latest Bulletin has been entered onto our website – www.rasurvey.org, – a good opportunity to check out our website and see what the other state associations are up to. An outline of other state association publications is at the end of this Bulletin.

WEBSITE: Note: To access our website simply type on a blank page our website address www.rasurvey.org then control click. If you cannot remember our website address Google Royal Australian Survey Corps but preferably the former.

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

Our 'What Did We Do' project remains open for further contributions. Have a look and see if you can fill a few of the gaps. Email your contribution direct to Bob Skitch bob@skitch.me or enter your data on our website – www.rasurvey.org.

Congratulations to Diana Soutar for her promotion to Warrant Officer First Class and her appointment as Squadron Sergeant Major from all of your old Corps colleagues..

COMMITTEE

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

NOTICES

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

Note: Christies can be contacted as follows:

Unit 4D; 1-7 Unwin Bridge Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044. Phone 02 9519 0784

RA SURVEY HISTORY by Dr Chris Coulthard Clarke – Copies are still available. Contact Secretary Greg Knight for details.

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.

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.

ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF & BADGE

Cost of tie or scarf is \$ 25.00 plus postage. Association badges are still available from the Queensland Association. Place your order with Secretary Greg Knight.

ANZAC DAY 2013

With regret I was unable to attend Anzac Day this year, neither the Dawn Service at 2CER Enoggera, the City march nor the Alderley Arms post march reunion. But from all accounts all components were well attended. Barry Lutwyche has provided the following roll call.....

DAWN SERVICE (5) at 2 CER Enoggera

Alex Cairney (who placed our wreath), Jim Beard, Bruce Bowers, Greg Knight and 1Topo Ex RA Svy member.

CITY MARCH (23 ie 4 x 1 Topo + 19 x Assn)

1 Topo Svy Sqn Escort (Assn Banner and Great Theodolite MIA) – Sgt Glen Norrell (ex- RASvy), LCpl Stewart Cox, Spr Scott Champion and Spr Errol Morris.

Association Members –Peter Bates-Brownsword, Bruce Bowers, Stan Campbell, Lorraine Chambers, Brian Cosford, Stephen Jones, Tony Gee, Bruce Gordon, Ian Hutchings, Russell Larsen, Russell Lewis, Barry Lutwyche, Mick McCosker, Dave O'Shannessy, Rowan Shipley, Grant Small, LVJ Smith (in wheelchair), William Smith (son of LVJ) and Alan Wilkins.

President Alex Cairney and Secretary Greg Knight attended but were unable to march. Barbara Bates-Brownsword and Jim Beard caught up with the Association group after the march.

POST MARCH REUNION – Alderley Arms Hotel

Most (18) of the above members attended and were joined by Barbara Bates-Brownsword (marched earlier with WRAAC), Lt John Gilbert (after completion of Army Cadet Corps duties), Neil Holmes, Percy Long, Matthew Long (son of Percy), Jamie Lyle, Dave Murphy, Amanda and Sqn Ldr Gary Percival (daughter and son in law of Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword) and Ross Smithwick.

Ed: I am advised that our march turnout was the best ever with nearly all wearing our distinctive berets, even LVJ who appears to have retired his battered old slouch hat, no doubt to a place of honour. Our marching contingent were well placed in the order of march in relation to the many marching bands that can vary from good to indifferent (they all do their best). It seems that our fellows were either in front of or behind the excellent Salvos Band and were able to maintain step and execute a very smart and snappy eyes left as they past the official dais with Governor Her Excellency Ms Penny Wensley giving them a smile and wave of encouragement.

But who were those blokes in the purple berets? Smart looking lot though they were but who were they? One or two in the crowd must have known because LVJ heard two cries of 'Good on yer Survey' – at least he thought so but maybe they were from 'plants'. The TV cameras missed us – probably thought we were part of RAE Water Transport. Why would they think that? Because our Great and Iconic Theodolite and our banner was missing – Missing in Action – AWOL!! Why? We had a banner party but no banner. Somehow there had been a breakdown in communication – in other words a SNAFU. Who was to blame – who cares? Well, it doesn't matter all that much. 2014 is ahead of us. I think I was told a bit back that one of the fit young soldiers from 1 TOPO will have the honour and distinction of carrying the Great Theodolite on future marches. Phew!

The post-march Reunion was as always a happy and well attended event. It was great to see Percy Long there with son Mat. Percy and Dell have sold up their Salisbury home of 50 or more years and moved to a retirement village.

1 Topo Svy Sqn RAE continued in sending a catafalque party under command of SSM WO1 Diana Soutar and others to Kilcoy for the Anzac observance services. Well done 1 Topo!

ANZAC DAY 2013

On parade in the City and around the bar at the Alderley Arms



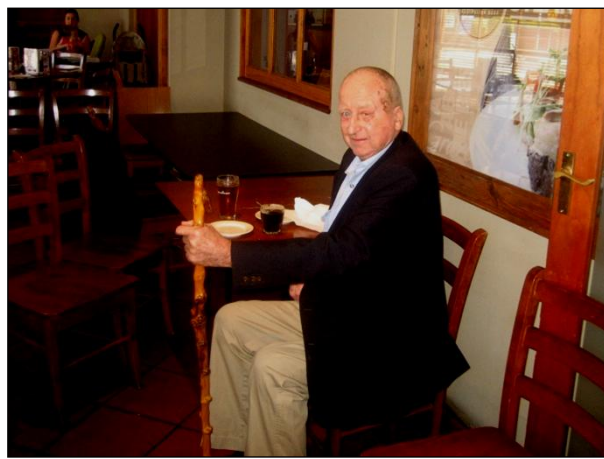
Arriving – Brian Cosford and march Ldr Dave O’Shannessy



Sqn Ldr Gary & Amanda Percival, Barbara BB



About to step off – who is this purple bereted mob?



At the post-march reunion Percy Long



Our 1 Topo contingent – Sgt Greg Norrell and behind L/Cpl Stewart Cox, Spr Errol Morris Look at those Boots!



At the post march reunion – Ian Hutchings, Stan Campbell, Peter BB, Ross Smithwick, Rowan Shipley



13 January 2013 – AN EARLIER REPORT, – FORTUNA VILLA HAS FAILED TO SELL.

The three-storey, 60-room mansion was for sale by tender by the Department of Defence. But the six tenders for the historic 1850s home failed to meet requirements and the sale will not go ahead. The Department of Defence will explore other options and wants to restart the sale process this year and finalise the sale by the end of the financial year.

Three tenders for the property, previously valued about \$3 million, were received after the 7 December 2012 noon deadline and were not opened or assessed. Local groups opposed to the sale on heritage grounds and likely removal of the property from public ownership welcomed the news. *‘It is good news in a lot of ways... it gives the community organisations more time to ensure the protection of the site,’* Villa Fortuna Action Group president Merle Hall said. *‘It gives us the chance to encourage some renegotiations about community access. Fortuna was of international significance and probably the most important example of the value of gold in 19th century Australia.’*

Bendigo Historical Society president Jim Evans said *‘local groups had argued for public ownership and community access to the site. It’s a real Bendigo icon and it’s important it stays as such. Perhaps this will reawaken interest in local people and perhaps the state government. It might give them more time to reconsider the situation.’*

A spokesperson for the Department of Defence said there were no formal heritage protections on the title, but the contract of sale required adherence to a Heritage Management Plan.

Fortuna is listed on four heritage registers and schedules. The property was described in an information pack as *“an amazing representation of the wealth generated during the gold rush in Victoria”* with two conservatories, a billiard room, Roman baths and several dining rooms set among lush surrounds.

12 April 2013.....FORTUNA VILLA SELLS TO MYSTERY BUYERS FOR \$3 MILLION



A section of the public at the auctionⁱ

Bendigo developer Spiros Kolaitis has paid \$3 million for Fortuna Villa on behalf of an anonymous buyer. Tweed Sutherland First National auctioneer and director Craig Tweed said the new owners wanted to remain anonymous until they had finalised details about the future of the historic villa.

Mr Tweed described the plans as 'very exciting'. (ED – the buyer was reported to be Asian)

Unconfirmed speculation is that the group plans to develop Fortuna into a hotel and function centre. More than 200 people turned out for the 11am auction in The Capital. The Bendigo Historical Society made the most of the auction by selling Fortuna historical DVDs at the door.

Auctioneer Craig Tweed accepted an opening bid of \$1 million before a battle between two bidders saw the price tag quickly rise to \$1.25 million, \$1.5 million, \$1.75 million, \$2 million, \$2.35 million, \$2.6 million and finally the selling price of \$3 million. Mayor Cr Lisa Ruffell said Council would seek to work with the new owners of Fortuna Villa to guarantee public access to the iconic seven hectare site. *'Council worked hard to convince the Federal Government to stop today's auction, but at the end of the day, they were the owner and it was their decision whether or not to sell,'* she said. *'Council will seek to have discussions with the new owners with the aim of ensuring our community can have access to this important part of Greater Bendigo's history'*

6 May 2013FURTHER REPORT:.....

The sale of Fortuna has fallen through. The historic villa and surrounding property was sold at auction last month. Bendigo local Spiros Kolaitis made the highest bid on behalf of a consortium of developers. But a Department of Defence spokesperson said the cheque for the 10 per cent deposit had not cleared – (ie, it bounced!) *'Defence is disappointed that the purchaser of the Fortuna property has not tendered the deposit to purchase the property and, consequently, has defaulted on the contract of sale.'* The spokesperson said the department is discussing the sale of the property with two other interested parties. *'One of the two parties participated in the auction process'*.

7 May 2013.... UPDATE:

Fortuna has been sold to Sutton Grange developer Paul Banks. Mr Banks confirmed tonight that he is the new owner of the historic 1860s villa....*'I'm chuffed,'* he said.

ED: It looks as though it really is sold! What can we expect now?

THE LAST HURRAH FOR BALCOMBE CAMP and the memories of all who attended courses at the School of Military Survey

Balcombe Barracks Commemoration took place from 3 to 5 May 2013. The Royal Australian Survey Corps was represented by Bill Boyd, Max Neil and Don Swiney. The following account, narrative and poetry with supporting photographs were provided by Bill Boyd.

Balcombe 2013 – A nostalgic weekend – by Bill Boyd OAM

The commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the 1st Division US Marines Guadalcanal campaign was the catalyst for the events in Mornington on the weekend of the 3rd, 4th and 5th of May. All previous “tenants” were invited to participate. As best I could ascertain all groups were represented at the organised events at three venues in the Mornington area.

You might well ask where the US Marines fit. They were encamped at Balcombe after they “shipped out” of Guadalcanal. As you will see in, *The Mantle Fits*, the marines took us to heart, as indeed, did we them, back in 1942. They were represented by Colonel John Stevens USMC (R) who at ninety four “Waltzed Matilda” down Main Street Mornington as deftly as he might have waltzed a “Mornington Matilda” way back then.

The weekend format was logical, with registration on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the Mornington Race Course.

The unveiling ceremony was on Saturday afternoon where previous “Balcombe tenant” stake holders’ representatives unveiled duplicates of the permanent story boards that outlined the roles of those stakeholders in Balcombe. These were ‘virtual unveilings’ that were performed in the well appointed shelter of the Balcombe Grammar School assembly hall which is situated where the Army Apprentice School Metal Trades Wing (see photo page 13) had been. Don Swiney did the honours for the School of Military Survey. Brass plaques on rock plinths with their accompanying permanent story boards are installed on a median strip in the car park which once was the Apprentice School parade ground, just inside the memorial gates (built by the Apprentices as a memorial to the 1st Div US Marines) which are the access from the Nepean Highway to Mace Oval. This oval was part of the apprentice school facilities. Concern over fickle weather resulted in the “virtual unveilings”.

The Principal of the Balcombe Grammar School, Mr. Matthew Dodd, addressed the assembly, in excess of five hundred, consisting in no small part of local citizens. His message was that Balcombe Grammar School is acutely aware of the historical significance of the site they occupy, not only from a military perspective, but in particular the educational history of their military predecessors. His seven year old school has become part of the proud educational history of “Camp Balcombe” and today’s students are imbued with that history. The manner, presentation and bearing of the student welcoming group who distinguished themselves that day, bodes well for Balcombe Grammar’s future.

About five hundred attended the Saturday night dinner at the Mornington Race Course. The food and company was good. The speeches were pertinent and made good listening. The one identifiable survey representative and his wife, occupied a table for ten designated for “Survey/WRAAC” together with two WRAAC representatives and one ex-infantry husband.

Sunday morning saw us formed up in two groups front and rear of the excellent Army Band Melbourne, with which we paraded to the Mornington Cenotaph for a memorial service and wreath laying. Bill Boyd did the honours for Survey Corps.

The Dava Hotel was the venue for post cenotaph morning tea which, for many participants, morphed into lunch and something a little stronger.

Don Swiney, Max Neil (also an ex-apprentice) and Bill and Ann Boyd “showed the Survey flag”, which consisted of Bill’s purple beret. Unfortunately Don was only able to attend on Saturday afternoon. *The summary to this report is shown below.*

'The Mantle Will Fit' by William R. Boyd OAM
6 May 2013

"It's a quadruple blank file", he mused as they marched.
Resplendent in suits, not greens and not starched.
His shined RM boots matched the old marching stride
As he and his mate stepped it out side by side.

We "Waltzed Matilda". We stepped to the beat
Of our folk anthem tune in the Mornington street.
A 1st Division Marine waltzed with her too.
Their Divisional tune, goes wherever they do.

Three flags at the front flew red white and blue,
Australian, American and 1st Div's flag too.
The cross, on two flags, from the southern night sky,
Tells its own story wherever they fly.

A cheering massed crowd did not exist,
But two ladies did run for the photos they'd missed.
The old Diggers' route to the town's cenotaph
Was peppered with comments that were good for a laugh.

This memorial service was formalities' end
For Camp Balcombe's past tenants. *"Farewell our old friend."*

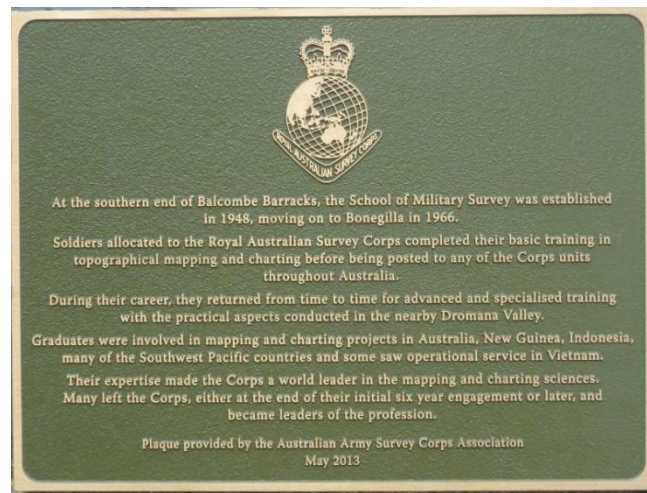
We ceded our claim to this sacred site.
Young tenants inherit our proud learning rite.

The previous day we attended the site.
Students smiled, *"Welcome"*. Balcombe Grammar was right,
To take on the mantle we collectively wore,
To imbue *"Camp Balcombe students"* with the spirit it bore.

Retelling of stories well worn through the years
Embellished and fashioned around a few beers
Highlighted each table at the dinner that night.
The spirit of mateship pulsed – as it might.

There's no question about it! We wish not for war
To plague today's students like we students of yore.
Education and pride in achievements hard won
Will ensure for Australia, a place in the sun.

Waltzing Matilda is the official tune associated with the 1st Division US Marines.
The Southern Cross is incorporated in the 1st Division Marine insignia.



The plaque reads –

At the southern end of Balcombe Barracks the School of Military Survey was established in 1948, moving on to Bonegilla in 1966.

Soldiers allocated to the Royal Australian Survey Corps completed their basic training in topographical mapping and charting before being posted to any of the Corps units throughout Australia.

During their career they returned from time to time for advanced and specialised training with the practical aspects conducted in the nearby Dromana Valley. Graduates were involved in mapping and charting projects in Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia and many of the South West Pacific countries and some saw operational service in Vietnam.

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

Plaque provided by the Australian Army Survey Corps Association – May 2013.



Bill lays RA Svy wreath at Mornington Cenotaph

HISTORY OF BALCOMBE CAMP by Frank Maloney (as published in the Frankston Weekly)

The long history of Balcombe Barracks will be on parade during a special commemoration to mark 30 years since the closure of the camp's last transition into the Army Apprentices School.

And for Seaford resident and guest of honour, World War II veteran and decorated soldier **Sergeant Ray 'Mick' Mace (retired)**, it will be an opportunity to catch up with old friends.

The Mt Martha site was used as an overnight halt, bivouac site and field training area for Melbourne militia units since the late 1800s, but it wasn't until the Second World War that land was secured to establish a more permanent camp.

The first huts at the Balcombe Army Camp were erected in 1939 and the Footscray Regiment machine gunners were the first to move in, along with militia who were relegated to tents. Other 'guests' around this time were the 1st US Marine Division which would practice beach landings off the nearby Dromana cliffs, and the 'SeaBees' construction brigade. Heritage officer for the Army Apprentices Association of Australia, Norm Wells, says that during the war years, more than 24 units of the mobilised 4th Division CMF Militia Forces were stationed at Balcombe.

Other tenants included the Armoured Fighting Vehicle School, RAAF Staff School and a Z Special Unit (disguised as Mt Martha Research Station) which taught languages and signals and, for a short time, included a classified espionage unit. The 13 Light Horse Regiment were also residents as it retrained with motorised vehicles after surrendering their mounts.

"At the end of 1942 the headquarters of 1st US Marine Division and many of its troops arrived at the camp after a six-month campaign in Guadalcanal for rest and refit.

Other members of the 19,000-man division [with almost half suffering malaria] were accommodated at Ballarat, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Langwarrin camp," Mr Wells says.

While they were there, three marines were presented with their nation's highest award for valour, the US Congressional Medal of Honour.

Mt Martha House was utilised as an US officers club accommodating senior marine officers during their stay.

So affected by their stay at the camp, the 1st US Marines adopted the Victorian Southern Cross emblem as its badge and Waltzing Matilda as its official divisional tune.

After the war, the Australian Regular Army struggled to find skilled tradesman in a booming local economy and in 1948 decided to establish its own school at Balcombe to train 15-17 year old army apprentices in various trades, Mr Wells says. Following a competitive selection process, on August 2, 1948 the first intake of 63 Australian Regular Army apprentices from across Australia began their training in 11 various trades in the camp's old, unheated huts.

It was about this time that Mick Mace (MBE, MM) of the Royal Australian Engineers made his mark on the camp. Mr Mace and other members of the regiment arrived there to resurrect the old huts for the new apprentices.

"It was a shambles; a lot of things had been stolen from the camp and there was no money around, so we had to scrounge what we could. Everyone had to bog in and help, officers and all, but even so the first couple of intakes only had a few classrooms and nothing else."

What was supposed to take three months took nine, and in the end about 30 civilians were recruited to help complete the job.

But it was his role in creating the camp's impressive sporting field that the company sergeant is best remembered.

Borrowing a large bulldozer he spent hours working into the night carving out a sporting field that still bears his name.

"Mick is a legend in the association," Mr Wells said.

The initial enlistment period for army apprentices was nine years — three years of trade and military training; a year of on-the-job training, and the remainder in Army Field Force trade employment.

From its first intake of 63 apprentices, enlistment in the school grew to 200 each year until it relocated to new facilities in Bonegilla at the end of 1982 which could cater for up to 300 apprentices. It was only then that female apprentices were accepted into the school. This school closed in 1998.

Balcombe Army Camp was decommissioned and closed in early 1983 and control of the land was passed on to the Mornington Shire for redevelopment.

Today, the only things that remain of the military training facilities is the US marine memorial gates built by apprentices in 1954, and the famous Mace Oval with its brick spectator terracing.

In its 50-year history, the Army Apprentice Scheme trained 7500 tradesmen including architectural draughtsmen, blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, electricians, electrical fitters, fitters and turners, motor mechanics, plumbers, telecommunication mechanics, welders, musicians and clerks.

About 760 apprentices were later commissioned as officers, and 26 appointed as staff officers.

Not only was Balcombe Camp the home of the Army Apprentice School it was also the home of the School of Military Survey, the Army School of Music, and the School of Signals. Members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) served in various administrative positions within the camp and had their live-in barracks at Mount Martha.

THE LAST HURRAH FOR THE OLD BALCOMBE CAMP



Unveiling the Story Boards



Dinner – Saturday night



Balcombe Camp Gate – built by the Apprentices as a memorial to the 1st Div US Marines



Our Story Board



March in the main street of Mornington



Our Corps reps – Don Swiney, Bill Boyd, Max Neale



US Corps of Marines

STORY BOARDS – Click to open



AAS STORY BOARD
BALCOMBE 2013.pdf



Army School of Music
- D3.pdf



Balcombe Military
Camp - D1.pdf



School of Military
Survey - D3.pdf

Our Story Board

Story Board text: *From 1948 until 1965 Balcombe was used by the Australian Army to train soldiers of all ranks to be military map-makers for the Royal Australian Survey Corps. Initially named the School of Survey it was re-designated as the School of Military Survey in the early 1960s.*

Training in the major map making skills of surveying and cartographic draughting ranged from elementary to the most advanced and specialised levels.. With advances in mapping and computer technology, the training provided progressed over time from labour intensive manual field survey techniques to position fixing by satellite, and from drawing maps with pen and ink to the use of computer-aided draughting.

Graduates trained at Balcombe were posted to Royal Australian Survey Corps units throughout Australia where they made significant contributions to the mapping of the Australian continent.

They also participated in survey and mapping operations in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands as well as seeing active service in Vietnam. Many served on exchange postings in Canada, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The area surrounding the Balcombe camp and the Dromana Valley was used as a survey training ground for generations of military map makers. It is arguably one of the most surveyed and mapped areas in Australia as a consequence.

Over the course of their careers members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps could expect to return to Balcombe many times. The close attachment between Balcombe and the Royal Australian Survey Corps came to an end in 1965 with the relocation of the School of Military Survey to Bonegilla in Northern Victoria.



Don Swiney unveils our Story Board



Anne and Bill Boyd and Max Neale

PERSONALIA and other jottings

Stewart Parkinson our WW2 Veteran (2/1st Corps Topo Svy Coy) at 92 has been having a rough run with health for these past eight months. He has been well looked after in the Lourdes Home in his home city of Toowoomba and his son Stewart (Junior) says that he is making a slow recovery and has high hopes of returning to his Rangeville home in the near future. Harley has been with him at Lourdes Home and understandably the strain of Stewart's illness is taking its toll on Harley also.

Mike Symmons continues to live at Caboolture. Maintaining his lifetime interest in plant culture he works three days each week on a sixty acre palm and cycads nursery. Mike recently thought to check out an old mate well known to many in the Corps, **Daryl and Lyn Parker**. It took a bit of sleuthing on Mike's part to track him down. Mike had asked me some time ago if I knew of Daryl's whereabouts and all I could say was that the last time I had contact with Daryl he was somewhere in central Queensland. Anyhow, enquiry showed that Daryl and Lyn had long moved on from there to (of all places) Violet Town in Victoria. In Mike's mind was the thought 'who would want to move to Violet Town' But Daryl and Lyn did and Mike has re-visited his previous thoughts on Violet Town – it is a very delightful and well resourced little community. (Is that where the 'Sapphires' came from?) Then the Parkers made another life changing move. Having visited a friend on the far north coast of NSW, driving back through Hastings Point they spotted a 'for sale' sign on an attractive new apartment block and thought they would take a look and two hours later they were the proud owner (well almost) of a luxury apartment and by a phone call had put their Violet Town home on the market. Mike has since visited and he reports that they are very happy with the move – have been there eight years now and it couldn't be better. For those with little knowledge of the region Hastings Point is about 25 kms south of the border.

Mike also commented on another of his contemporaries, **Dave Owens** who of course lives in South Australia. Dave after leaving the Corps worked for Geo Surveys as did some others from the Corps. Dave's wife Toni had a successful battle against Lymphoma achieving total remission. That piece of news gives me great heart.
.....*Bob Skitch*

Bob Skitch is undergoing the 'dreaded' Chemo Therapy. Not so dreaded these days. Twenty years ago it was a horror experience. Bob's cancer turned out to be not the metastasised melanoma on the spleen it was thought to be but Lymphoma (Non-Hodgkinson) very treatable by Chemo Therapy. However, it took the removal of the spleen to establish that. Sophisticated scans only give an indication that something is amiss but they don't say what it is. Bob had a snatch and grab of a piece of bone marrow that showed that it had not progressed into his bone marrow – good news! Bob's side effects have been manageable, mainly loss of energy. Not bad in the morning but by lunch he has consumed the little 'puff' that kept him going in the morning. Bob has had three sessions of Chemo so far with three to go at Chermside Private (once Repat) Hospital and for the first two he was kept in under observation for five days – because of his age! 'How old is old' Bob wonders. For the remaining three at fortnightly intervals it will be a day event.

Bob has been greatly appreciative of the twenty five messages of best wishes – get well he has received from Corps members, some of whom he hasn't seen in years; some he only knew as young blokes doing a good job.

John Leworthy in an email advises that ...'For those who don't know my wife has decided to go her own way and I have retired and from next Monday night 22 Apr 2013'.

John's new address is 2 Grevilia Close, Cowes, Phillip Island, Vic 3922. (Note that Grevilia only has one I not two) I won't have a phone number until couple of days later, so will let you know when it's allocated. My email will not change.

Cheers all.....John Leworthy.

Don Swiney our second last Director of RA Survey and last Colonel Commandant has had his own brush with cancer in the prostate region. Don has sold his deer property 'Springbank' out of Kangaroo Flat and moved into Bendigo at Kensington, almost next door to the university where Don taught and preached surveying for a number of years. Don says that is purely coincidental. Both the sale of *Springbank* and the purchase of his new home occurred over an incredibly short space of time – a couple of days. Don said given the current economic climate he was prepared to have *Springbank* on the market for weeks, months, even years if necessary but it wasn't necessary. A young couple walked in and after a brief haggle took it. His purchase at Kensington was similar. Good work Don and best wishes to you and Glen from all of us in the Sunshine State.

Noel Sproles in the Pie-Eater State continues to have little adventures with his kelpie bitch Kate. This is the latest and it's a pity it wasn't videoed.....

'Those of us who watched Cowboys and Indians films in our youth will know about 'injuns' and their painted horses. We cannot afford a horse but do have a painted dog!

James (Noel's son) and I were painting the outside back wall of the house today and had to contend with a kelpie wanting to play ball instead. We ignored her so what better way to drawing our attention to her ball than to drop it into the paint bucket!.....Kerplop.....Aaaaargh.

Then there was the collision with the roller on the pole fully loaded with paint. The sequel to that was one of us holding her down while the other hosed the paint off and everyone getting wet. Kate still has painted ear tips where she sniffed the wet paint on the wall and then pricked her ears forward. Moral of the story is 'Lock up your dog when you try to paint'

Peter Rodriguez put this on 'Facebook'



Hi everyone: We had a wonderful day at Wioli Church yesterday. Over 130 people the church is growing! We prayed for one of our businessmen who has a new bus for a town bus service and then we all had lunch together. The fellowship was great. I am taking the women's meeting on Wednesday and they want me to teach them how to knit. There were over 34 children in kids church. We love what God is doing! We are blessed.

VALE Notices for Walter Lesley (Wally) Mooney, James Walter (Jim) Fitzhenry, Desmond Roy (Des) Moore and Percy Henry Long in this issue of our Bulletin are at the end.

OUR BANNER – A Post ANZAC Day reflection.....Bob Skitch

It has been suggested to me that we have a problem with our rather spectacular banner, designed and made by our past member and WW2 veteran Hal Jones. What is the problem with our banner? In the minds of many including myself – it is too big and too high. So big and high that it occludes seeing the troops marching behind it by the TV cameras positioned up high near the saluting dais. Further more in appearance, although spectacular, with all its tinsel and reflective lettering over a white background it is somewhat ‘tizzy’. Maybe our big banner has a place somewhere, maybe against the wall at our September reunion, but not to be carried on our march.

But wait! – We do have another one – somewhere! It is smaller and from memory it is on a single pole and has a blue background. Trouble is – we don’t know where it is but maybe someone does.

Alternatively, maybe we need a new one, better designed and professionally made.

A VIETNAM REFLECTION - Constituent Assembly election.....1966 by Bob Skitch

In the months leading up to September there had been mention in Intelligence circles of an undertaking by the South Vietnamese government to conduct an election to choose candidates for a Constituent Assembly the purpose of which was to draft a constitution along democratic lines. Apparently the Ky/Thieu government had been procrastinating on the issue but finally yielded to US and Buddhist pressure. The date chosen for the Constituent Assembly election was 11 September 1966. Following so closely after ‘Long Tan’ and the now certain knowledge that elements of the PAVN had deployed into Phouc Tuy there was a degree of apprehension that election day might be the trigger for enemy harassment, if not at the task force base itself but more certainly at the civilian population fronting up to vote. Polling centres were set up in locations throughout South Vietnam and the ARVN deployed to provide protection. Such a centre was established at Baria. It was ordained that foreign troops were to keep out of the polling process and remain in their bases but to be prepared to deploy if it became necessary. It was generally expected that the Viet Cong would take advantage of the situation and terrorize the populace attempting to vote. Voting was not compulsory but from all accounts there were large turnouts of voters at the polling centres, certainly so in Baria. The Viet Cong surprisingly failed to carry out previous threats and the process proceeded relatively peacefully. Of course the outcome was open to conjecture and although an assembly was formed and took residence in Saigon it was not until 1968 that a general election was held. Task Force operations were resumed a day or two later.

A RECIPE TO DIE FOR – Oriental Fried Noodle Salad

- Half to one Chinese cabbage or savoy cabbage
- 6 green onions chopped to 5mm lengths
- 100 grams of slightly roasted slithered almonds or pine nuts
- One packet of Changs fried noodles 100 grams – original or onion flavoured

Dressing

- ¼ cup of white vinegar
- ¼ cup of caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon of Changs soy sauce
- Two teaspoons of Changs Sesame oil (optional)
- ½ cup of olive oil

Combine all dressing ingredients in a saucepan. Stir well over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Cool. Toss the cabbage, chopped green onions and almonds in a salad bowl. Add dressing and mix well. Just before serving add the noodles and toss thoroughly. To make an even more delicious salad add shredded barbecue chicken or pork.

ED – I have tried it – absol-bloody-utely delicious!



BALCOMBE Grammar School

– a non-denominational Christian school on the site of the Army Apprentice School Metal Trades Wing south of Mace Oval.

From the other State RA Survey Associations since our last Bulletin (Check Website www.rasurvey.org for details.

Magna Carto No 12 – May 2013

- * Fortuna Villa sells at Auction – some great photos
- * Vale – Desmond Ray Moore
- * Phillip Dave (Phil) Boyle
John Cattell
- * Cartoon – HM Corrective Centre, Bonegilla by a wit!
- * Last Hurrah for Balcombe
- * Not a plane table – but what?
- * Mick Flynn turns 60
- * Survey Corps badges
- * Anzac Day 2013 in Melbourne – 3rd Aust Field Survey Coy AIF
- * Melbourne Survey reunion
- * Recent retirements
- * Anzac Day Bendigo
- * Magna Carto postal distribution

ACT Newsletter 2/13 – May 2013

- * Call for Vale input by Rob McHenry
- * Coalition call for fair indexation of military pensions
- * ADSO (Association of Defence Organisations) response
- * Mount Spec (Qld) Shield Tree by Charlie Watson – also early Survey Corps photos
- * Fortuna Villa sold
- * RA Survey Nominal Roll 4th draft from Peter Jensen
- * 'Tall Tales but True' – Operation Mizmaze by Greg Tolcher (some amazing happenings)
- * Vale – Desmond Raymond Moore
Wally Mooney
- * Photo Gallery – Dr Gary (Blue) Hunters RASURVEY number plate

TO COME IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF OUR Bulletin.....

- * **Report on Tony and Loretta Gee's Great Gourmet BBQ – 27 May**
- * **Report on the Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner at the United Service Club – 27 June 2013**
- * **Report on the AGM and Annual Reunion at the Kilcoy RSL – September 2013**

VALE

WALTER LESLE (WALLY) MOONEY

Allan Adsett from South Australia reports the death of Wally Mooney. Allan emails....*Reading the paper this morning I saw Death and Funeral Notices for Wally Mooney.*

Wally, aged 82, passed away on Tuesday 14 May. His funeral was held on Friday 17 May at St Andrews Lutheran Church, Glynde. Wally's was pre-deceased by his wife Norma. He is survived by his children and

spouses Christine and Rocky, Stephen and Joanne and seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Wally in his last years lived at the Lutheran Homes, Glynde and his family is grateful for their care and support.

Peter Jensen's Corps List shows that Wally served from 2 Dec 1952 to 24 Dec 1970. We remember Wally in many non-tech capacities at the Army Survey Regiment – Q, Transport and Orderly Room He ran the OR's Tavern for many years. Wally had at least one field excursion in New Guinea.

JAMES Walter (JIM) FITZHENRY I am told passed away recently. Jim served for six years from 1958 to 1964, mostly with Topo Squadron, AHQ Survey Regiment.

DESMOND (DES) ROY MOORE – *From Magna Carto May 2013*



Photo: Des Moore with Marg Taylor, Hillary Campbell (nee Clarkson) and Barbara Bates-Brownsword (nee Hawkins)

VP31949 / 31066 WO1 Desmond Roy Moore (Des) passed away on 11 September 2012 in Perth after a long battle with cancer. He served in the Survey Corps from 26 Mar 1946 – 23 Sep 1964.

From Hazel Moore :- Des often asked that I should let you know when he died so that any old friends and comrades who remember him should know. Des was always so proud to have been in Survey and I think they were some of his most fulfilling and happy years. He thought he may have been the youngest RSM in the Army having taken the post at only 24 (although the Army thought he was 2 years older!) He may also have been Fortuna's longest serving RSM as he was there for 12 years. No doubt all this is in your records anyhow. He was 85 years old and has been very ill for some years but always kept his great wit and his artistic abilities.

As his second wife, we were together for 22 years and spent many of them travelling in our old Coaster bus, mostly between Perth and Cooktown where we met. He has 3 grown daughters from his first marriage. As you can imagine it all seems very surreal to me at present but I am anxious to write this as it was his wish. In a typical Des way, he has bequeathed his body to the University for research. He said he though 'he'd been such a good customer to the medical profession in the past that they may as well try to learn something from him!'

Des Moore was CSM from 1953 until 1955 when the Cartographic Unit became AHQ Survey Regiment. He held the position of Regimental Sergeant Major for the next eight years until 1963. Des was the PMC of the Sergeants' Mess from 1957-62. With that sort of contribution to the Survey Corps it is understandable that he features significantly in the "Mapmakers of Fortuna" history by Valerie Lovejoy. "Fortuna soldiers were pretty ragtag and bobtail as far as a military establishment went, but they were efficient at their mapping." - Des Moore.

ED: I remember Des Moore with a great deal of affection. He was RSM of the Regiment when I returned from the New Ireland job in 1957 and we field surveyors were thrown into the Regiment's annual military training. It was largely conducted by Des and his approach was very innovative, challenging and often amusing. Des certainly had a great sense of humour that could lighten an otherwise serious occasion. Our defensive exercise in the 'something or other' State Forest some miles out of Bendigo was my first exposure to any sort of tactical situation and what I learnt from it, as well as the subsequent three in 1958, 1959 and 1960 (I was a Platoon Sergeant OIC and on the DS in the latter with Ken Shaw as Company Commander – what could be better?). Of course Captain Clem Sargent as the Regiment's Adjutant ran the whole show but it was Des who made it happen. Even around Fortuna we did some very interesting things – all out of Des's imagination.

Des took to kite flying at one time and he was caught trying to get his kite aloft on open ground near the transport compound by Sapper Bob Thompson. I guess Thomo had a sense of humour equal to Des's. He called out to him 'Did you look in the suggestion box Sir?'. Des subsequently told the story against himself with the comment 'cheeky bugger'. Des as RSM was always 'Sir' around the Regiment. In 1960 he accompanied the Topo Squadron field detachment to Camooweal where we ran the Tellurometer Traverse from Mount Isa to Borroloola. I didn't see much of Des during that time. Major Jim Stedman was the Detachment OC and Des was in charge of camp improvement. With sleeves rolled up or no shirt at all (it can be cold in Camooweal during winter) and wearing the shortest of shorts with 'Boots AB Black' on his feet he constructed walking paths down the row of tents to and from the mess tent and the ablution block. He had the help of others – camp wallahs – including the OC Jim. Somehow Des had found a drum of bitumen discarded at the dump (at the Camooweal dump anything was possible) brought it back to camp, put a fire under it and melted the bitumen and used it to seal the paths. I think at other times he undertook field completion of the Camooweal and Duchess 1:250,000 maps.

We had an extended visit by our CO Lieutenant Colonel Lindsay Lockwood and I think Jim Stedman gave him to Des to look after. Typically Des took the Colonel to inspect the Camooweal dump and Colonel Lockwood (who was a keen gardener) commented 'I reckon you could find a book on gardening if you looked around here!' After a minute or two Des bent down and picked up a rather tattered book and said 'here's one Sir'. It was – a book on gardening!

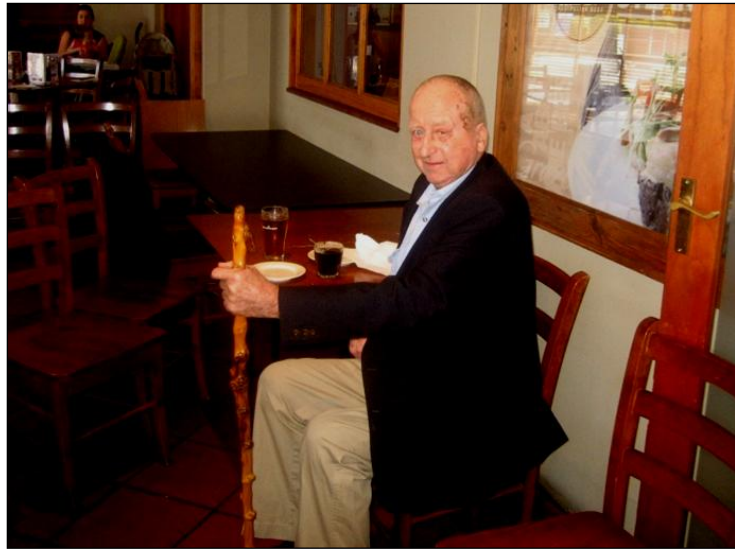
In the field Des was 'Des' to all but of course the young sappers had some difficulty with that. Des returned to Fortuna at the completion of the Tellurometer Traverse and the Detachment moved on to Georgetown. By the time we returned to Fortuna in about October or November Des was well and truly 'Sir' to all.

If all that is not entirely accurate it is how I remember it after fifty years.....Bob Skitch

PERCY HENRY LONG passed away peacefully in Greenslopes hospital in the late evening of the 27th May 2013. At his bedside were his sons Matthew and Andrew



In 2011 Percy placed the wreath on our Memorial Plinth at the Ela Beach Memorial Park in Port Moresby



Percy at our Anzac day reunion at the Alderley Arms – 2013

Percy first joined the Australian Army in 1945 as a general enlistee.. After recruit training he was initially involved in guarding Japanese prisoners of war at Gaythorne and from there Percy was posted to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) and served in Japan. On return to Australia he was demobilised and returned to the family farm at Gympie. However, after his time in the Army he realised that farming was not for him and he rejoined the now peacetime Army in 1949. Hearing of the Australian Survey Corps and following his fascination with maps Percy corps transferred.

That was the start of twenty years of field survey operations for Percy with hardly a year missed when he was not on survey operations somewhere.

In 1950 and for a further three years after that he found himself in South Australia with the then AHQ Field Survey Section, later to become the Central Command Field Survey Section, working on triangulation and general mapping associated with that iconic project, the Woomera Rocket Range. It was hard and demanding work with much of the triangulation being carried out from towers in the flat central Australian landscape.

Percy's son Andrew tells me that Percy had met Dell at a dance at Pialba in 1950. Following Percy to South Australia Dell worked at a North Adelaide private hospital but even there their meetings were few and far between. They married in December 1952.

In 1953 Percy was back in Brisbane, posted to the Northern Command Field Survey Section. In Brisbane Percy and Dell were able to settle down and start a family. But of course there was mapping to be done at the old Imperial scale of one inch to one mile. Percy was now a corporal but it wasn't to be home every night, weekends maybe, otherwise camping pretty rough in the field – Beaudesert, Tambourine, Coopers Plains, Logan, Cambooya and Toowoomba. Other than Toowoomba there wasn't much there in those days. Then there were odd jobs like marking out the parade ground on Victoria Park. In 1953 Percy was promoted to Sergeant and in 1955 the Section undertook what in those days was considered to be a very large mapping project of inch to the mile mapping at Gympie by the old technique of plane-tableing – aided by air photography – making a map in the field. It was a time consuming process. At that time the Northern Command Field Survey Section was located in Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace Brisbane.

But in 1955 things changed for the Section and under Captain Ed Anderson most of the Section moved to the vicinity of Charters Towers, based at the old Ordnance Depot at Macrossan. Again they were engaged on triangulation associated with inch to the mile mapping and this extended into 1956. Things were pretty tough in those days; there was no concept of a field season – the Section simply stayed there till the job was done. If you wanted to come home for leave you paid your own way. The alternative was for wives to visit in the field and some did. The Section remained at Macrossan over the Christmas, not that much work was done – it was the heaviest wet on record. However, in 1956 Percy did return to Brisbane to carry out planning for the next big mapping project at Bouli.

And then Project Cutlass happened, the mapping of New Ireland, an off-shore part of New Guinea. Percy left Australia on the 14th August 1956 in the advance party and did not return until the 24th September 1957. Percy's role on Project Cutlass was to run a chain and theodolite traverse from Kavieng at the northern end of New Ireland to Samo near the southern end, a distance of near 300 kilometres. Measured twice in metres then in feet it took eight months to complete. Percy then moved on to the supporting United States Army ship, the FS 392 and participated in the shore-ship survey of the remainder of the island and the connection to New Britain at Rabaul and Green Island to the far east. Nearly sixteen months away from home – that was the way it was.

But there was no rest on return. In 1958 Percy was in north Queensland again based at Georgetown on field astronomy and the newly developed electronic distance measuring equipment known as the Tellurometer. In 1959 it was back to Cardwell, Innisfail and in 1960 Cooktown and Coen. These so called field trips were of five to six months duration. They continued on to 1962, again based at Macrossan near Charters Towers and the Gulf hinterland. Percy was now a Warrant Officer Class Two. Then in 1963 Percy undertook a two month assignment in New Guinea providing navigation control, plotting the patrol course and gathering topographic data on a lengthy Pacific Island Regiment (PIR) patrol south of Vanimo and close to the Indonesian border. Percy returned from that adventure several kilos lighter. The experience took a lot out of Percy and there were few who could have carried out that mission as Percy did. In 1964 Percy was on the electronic distance measured traverse from Bourke to Charleville, another five month field operation and at the end of that year he joined the HMAS Moresby for hydrographic work in the Torres Strait.

In 1965 Percy was prised away from Queensland and with promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1 posted to the Army Headquarters Survey Regiment at Bendigo, Victoria. The family moved to Bendigo – was that an enjoyable experience? – I really do not know. It was non-field and Percy undertook a variety of tasks within the Regiment and its Topographic Squadron but then in mid 1967 he was posted on active service to the First Australian Task Force, 'A' Section 1st Topographic Survey Troop at Nui Dat, South Vietnam for twelve months, returning mid 1968.

1969 was to be Percy's year of discharge after twenty years of unremitting service to his country. But that wasn't to be a year of rest. Back in his beloved Brisbane and his home at Salisbury Percy undertook his final survey operation, this time in Papua New Guinea based at Goroka.. But on return to Australia it was time for Percy to hang up his spurs and call it a day after an illustrious army career.

In civilian life Percy worked for a while with a small survey practice then joined the SEQEB in their survey department working on the routing of power lines. He remained with SEQEB finally retiring in 1988 In the early 1980's he was granted registration with the Surveyor's Board of Queensland. This allowed Percy to undertake contract survey work for private survey firms where he established a reputation for hard work and total reliability. Percy advanced with survey technology and could manage a 'Total Station' with the best. He worked on for many years retiring only on his 80th birthday when he may have been the oldest 'hands-on' practising field surveyor in Queensland.

Percy had many other interests during his post-army years. Of course there was his family, his children and grand children but also there was sailing. He was a keen sailor and a regular for many years at the weekly races on Moreton Bay by the Trailer Sailor Boat Club and the Wynnum Manly Yacht Club. Farming never

entirely left Percy's blood and for many years he had various 'hobby' farms – bush blocks on which he grew vegetables – pumpkins and cucumbers were his specialty, donating these to various charitable organisations. Son Andrew comments – 'and digging up lantana and other unwelcome intruders'.

That was Percy Long as we in the army knew him, a remarkable and achieving army field surveyor and family man.

Percy's funeral took place as he wished at Gympie attended by family members. On the 3rd June a memorial service was conducted at the Metropolitan Funeral Chapel Mt Gravatt. It was attended by 130 family, friends and Association colleagues – (L – R below) – Ken Lyons, Grant Small, Stan Campbell, Peter Blaskett, Bob Skitch, Alex Cairney, Greg Knight, Rowan Shipley, Ross Smithwick, Peter Bates-Brownsword, Barry Lutwyche. Les (LVJ) Smith and Jim Gill were also present.

Percy's wife of sixty years, Dell, was unable to be present at the service but had spent time with Percy at his bedside.

Eulogies were given by Percy's son Andrew and on behalf of th Association, Peter Bates Brownsword.



Ed: Percy' vale was compiled by Bob Skitch largely from Percy's 'What did we do' project entry with input from Percy's sons Andrew and Matthew.

