



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

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053  
Website: [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)

MID-YEAR EDITION – No 49

JUNE 2012

**CALENDAR 2012 (outline)**

**28 June (Thursday)** Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner at the United Service Club.

**1 Sept (Saturday)** Annual Reunion and AGM at the Alderley Arms Hotel.

**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 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

**When:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012

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

**Time:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

**Cost:** \$50.00 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) or Bob Skitch (PH 3350 1550) by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

Mick Larmer of Arman & Larmer Surveys PNG who assisted us in installing our commemorative plaque at Port Moresby is to be our guest of honour.

Dawn Laing is making 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:bob@skitch.me) or enter your data on our website – [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org).

## COMMITTEE

<b>Patron</b>	Lieutenant Colonel	E.U. Anderson MBE	Ph 3408 9179
<b>EXECUTIVE President</b>	Alex Cairney	Ph 3397 7583	email <a href="mailto:pres.qld@rasurvey.org">pres.qld@rasurvey.org</a> <a href="mailto:alex.cairney@hotmail.com">alex.cairney@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President &amp; Web Site Mgr</b>	Kym Weston	Ph 5445 6927	email: <a href="mailto:kym@westonsweb.com">kym@westonsweb.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Greg Knight	mob 042 737 7226 Mob 041 432 1827	email: <a href="mailto:sec.qld@rasurvey.org">sec.qld@rasurvey.org</a> <a href="mailto:greg.knight@gadgetkings.com">greg.knight@gadgetkings.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ross Smithwick	Ph 3356 5786	email <a href="mailto:rdsmithwick@ozemail.com.au">rdsmithwick@ozemail.com.au</a>
<b>Asst Sec/ Treas</b>	Barry Lutwyche, OAM	Ph 3264 2191	email: <a href="mailto:barrylutwyche@hotmail.com">barrylutwyche@hotmail.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE Past President</b>	Peter Bates-Brownsword	Ph 3289 7001 Mob 040 789 7001	email: <a href="mailto:petenbarb@dovenetq.net.au">petenbarb@dovenetq.net.au</a>
<b>Bulletin Editor &amp; Historian</b>	Bob Skitch	Ph 3350 1550 Brisbane or 5438 0550 Caloundra	email: <a href="mailto:bob@skitch.me">bob@skitch.me</a>
<b>1 TOPO SVY SQN</b>			
<b>Squadron OC</b>	Capt Stephen Wright		
<b>Squadron SSM</b>	WO1 Stephen Hill, CSM	Ph 3332 7564 mob 043 817 5977	email: <a href="mailto:stephen.hill1@defence.gov.au">stephen.hill1@defence.gov.au</a>

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

## 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

## 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 the Queensland Association. Phone or email Greg Knight

### **ASHLEY BIRT BAR**

SSM WO1 Stephen Hill of 1 Topo Svy Sqn advises...CPL Birt's name will live on in this unit. The Kilcoy RSL dedicated their bar and renamed it to the Ashley Birt ANZAC Bar on ANZAC Day. The Birt family will be in attendance at the dedication after the main service.

### **ANZAC DAY 2012.....Bob Skitch**

As in past years ANZAC Day 2012 started with the Dawn Service at 2 CER (Combat Engineer Regiment) at Enoggera Barracks commencing at 5.00am. As always a very moving ceremony, perhaps with not quite the same panache that we have experienced in previous years. The recently appointed Premier of Queensland, the Honorable Campbell Newman was in attendance – placed a wreath but kept a low profile. 2 CER was his past unit. The CO of 2 CER, LTCOL Paul Foura, gave the best ANZAC address I have heard in many a year – why Gallipoli after only fourteen years of nationhood? This was the last time that the Engineer Dawn Service would be held in that location since the area fronting Samford Road is to be demolished and re-developed. 2CER will be in new accommodation somewhere 'over the hill'. At a guess I would say that the total attendance at the service would have been at least 1,000 and after the ceremony all were fed a traditional breakfast at the 'Sportman's Club' for the payment of a 'gold coin' – proceeds to Legacy. And what constitutes a 'traditional army breakfast' – baked beans, fried eggs, mince hash, sausages, bacon, fried tomatoes – I was reminded of that at intervals throughout the day!

Survey Association members attending the Dawn Service were Alex Cairney who placed our wreath, Greg Knight, Ross Smithwick, Bruce Bowers, Jim Beard, Dave O'Shannessy and Bob Skitch (accompanied by daughter Sarah and two beautiful granddaughters)

Our city march was probably not the best we have had although well attended with 17 Association members and our 1 Topo banner contingent – Cpl Trent Forbes and Sprs Scott Champion and Stewart Cox. Parade marshals were active in pushing units together and we found ourselves with barely enough space to maintain our formation. Bands in front of us and behind played to different beats and maintaining step was near impossible – but we tried. It was more a stroll than a march! We were well led by Bruce (Stretch) Gordon with Dave O'Shannessy carrying the WW2 theodolite. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful day, not too hot and a huge crowd – I am told the largest in Australia exceeding both Sydney and Melbourne. Time past a point is 2½ hours and our Governor Ms Penny Wensley maintains her enthusiastic composure waving and encouraging each unit as it passed. LVJ is sure that she blew him a kiss!

We all retired to the Alderley Arms Hotel for a very convivial get-together afterwards and when the beer by the jug full commenced at 1.00pm it could not have been more welcome. Trays of savories and well prepared sandwiches were enjoyed by all.

Marchers were: Bruce Gordon (leader), Dave O'Shannessy (theodolite), Rowan Shipley, Bruce Bowers, Brian Cosford, Lorraine Chambers, Michael McCosker, Grant Small, Tony Gee, Greg Knight, LVJ (Les) Smith and son, Stephen Jones, Kym Baker, Barry Lutwyche, Barbara Bates-Brownsword (who did the circuit twice, first with the WRAAC contingent), Ian Hutchings, and Bob Skitch. Seeing us off but not marching were Ian Fitzgerald and Bob Caulfield (who said he would march next year). After the march we caught up with John Thomas who marches with 4 Battalion and Jim Beard who marches with his Artillery unit. Later at the Alderley Arms we were joined by Jamie Lyle, Des Neagle and Dave Murphy. **Veteran Percy Long** would dearly have liked to be with us again this year but couldn't make it. Both he and Dell are not in the best of health.

# ANZAC DAY 2012 - Photos



**Bob Skitch at 2 CER memorial**



**Forming up in George St**



**Our theodolite bearer  
- Dave O'Shannessy & Julie**



**LVJ (Les) Smith & son.  
Brian Cosford to left**



**AT THE ALDERLEY ARMS  
L-R - Des Neagle, Greg Knight,  
Grant Small, Ross Smithwick,  
Alex Cairney, Bob Skitch,  
Ian Hutchings, Barry Lutwyche,  
Rowan Shipley, Brian Cosford**

## ANZAC DAY elsewhere



**WA Passing the Bell Tower**  
Peter Bowen, Fred Brown, Chris Dixon,  
Patrice Hymus and Brian Firms



**Forming up in South Australia**



**Pete Smith & Noel Sproles**  
*(Pete was a NS Clerk in SVN in 1968)*



**Brian Duncan in Canada**  
*Brian attended ANZAC Day dawn service at the Canadian Military College in Toronto this year. He said unfortunately the moths got to his purple beret and he had to buy a black one.*

## **FORTUNA TO GO ON OPEN MARKET**

(Article from Brian Mead's Facebook account – presumably from the *Bendigo Advertiser*)

BRETT WORTHINGTON....03 May, 2012 04:00 AM



FORTUNA Villa supporters and Bendigo's mayor are disappointed the federal government plans to sell the iconic mansion on the open market. Bendigo MP Steve Gibbons yesterday confirmed the sale of Fortuna after months of bickering about the future of the site between state and federal politicians. Friends of Fortuna president Patrick Thwaites said both levels of government had missed an opportunity to reinvigorate the mansion. "We are not going to level the blame game at anyone," he said. "We want to express our sadness at an opportunity missed and passed up when it may never come back again."

The Friends of Fortuna released its business plan for the mansion last year. It would have included a 1500-seat amphitheatre and arts and hospitality components.

Mr Thwaites said he hoped a philanthropic organisation that was "sympathetic" to the preservation of Fortuna would buy the site.

The former Labor state government had hoped to buy Fortuna from the federal government for a nominal sum, a bid federal Labor rejected last year. A letter Special Minister of State Gary Gray sent to Deputy Premier Peter Ryan in August 2011 stated the site was valued at \$3 million. The former state government's proposal relied on the federal government giving it the land plus \$10 million, the state contributing \$7 million and the City of Greater Bendigo \$3 million.

Local federal member Mr Gibbons said "I don't know anyone who would regard handing over a property worth millions of dollars free of charge plus providing a \$10 million cash bonus as a 'concessional' rate," He said "restrictions prevented the government from handing over land below its market value. The time had run out for the state government to express an interest in buying the site, which the Defence Department owned. The federal government has been left with no option other than proceed with a sale of the property on the open market."

City of Greater Bendigo mayor Alec Sandner said the council wrote to Prime Minister Julia Gillard on March 27 to arrange a meeting with government representatives to discuss the future of the site. "City officials had been involved in good faith discussions with state and federal governments looking at how best to ensure the site's future as a community/public asset," he said.

Cr Sandner said that despite the decision, the council would work with the state and federal governments to ensure the historic site was recognised and could be used by the community.

## **KEEPING UP-TO-DATE ON DEFENCE MATTERS (from SA Assoc Newsletter No 55)**

Allan Adsett (SA) would like to draw everyone's attention to a recent article in the Adelaide Advertiser concerning a new Defence Website. It is called the Defence Alumni Network. The article states that; "A new website to enable ex-navy, army and air force personnel to keep in contact was launched recently. The Defence Alumni Network website will enable members to share photos and stories and to keep across current defence events. It will also provide the opportunity for Defence to keep in touch

with its alumni and re-engage with people who may want to rejoin the service. The network can be accessed by visiting [www.dan.gov.au](http://www.dan.gov.au)"

And for those of you who miss the old Army newspaper each second Thursday, it too can be found on-line and it is in a much fancier format than it was back in our time. It can be found at:  
[http://www.digital.realviewtechnologies.com/?xml=defencenews\\_army.xml](http://www.digital.realviewtechnologies.com/?xml=defencenews_army.xml)

### **VECTOGRAPHS – again, and the Australia connection**

My article on Vectographs in our November Bulletin (No 46) invited comment and produced a resounding silence. Here is a little more. My informant on Vectographs Colonel Mike Nolan, Royal Engineers (Ret) has produced a fascinating article on Vectographs for the *Ranger* magazine, the publication of the UK Defence Surveyors Association. The article is well researched with quotes from Brigadier Hotine, the renowned Director of Military Survey both before and during WW2 and in the minds of many the father of photogrammetry. His text book was available at our own School of Survey when I did my basic surveying course in 1955. From Mike's article it is clear that Vectographs were a Polaroid three dimensional product viewed through Polaroid spectacles, the production of which was relatively simple – simple enough for the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Company (AIF) to produce under field conditions on the OBOE Two Balikpapan operation in May 1945. Mike Nolan quotes part of the survey report by Major B.P. Lambert, OC of the 2/1<sup>st</sup> on Borneo Operations included in Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald's book *'Lebanon to Labuan'*. Under the sub-heading *OBOE Two – Balikpapan – Compilation and Reproduction* (page 94) Lambert lists *'Adv LHQ provided eight sets of 15 vectographs at 1:10,000 scale.'*

Publication of Mike Nolan's Vectograph article is to be in the Summer 2012 issue of *Ranger* on the UK Defence Surveyors website hyperlinked into our own website [www.rasurvey.com](http://www.rasurvey.com). At the moment it is in the Queensland resources page but in the re-vamp of our website it will be brought forward to the home page.

The remarkable thing is that the technology of Vectographs did not carry over into RASVY mapping after WW2. From comments at the time they presented a very valuable field product allowing groups of viewers equipped with Polaroid specs to view Vectograph three dimensionally together. As well as that the Vectograph when printed onto a transparency could be projected onto a metal screen and viewed three dimensionally by a much larger audience. **Bob Skitch**

### **PERSONALIA AND ODD JOTTINGS**

#### **From Michael Nolan 31 March 2012 ( Ex Royal Engineers Survey)**

Dear Bob, First, congratulations on another first class Bulletin. If you have no objection, can I forward it to a few of our DSA members? I have suggested something similar each Spring to fill the gap left when *'Ranger'* reverted to once a year, each autumn, but DSA Council has not supported the idea. Perhaps this might stir them into some support for the idea. However, if you have problems, let me know. Sorry I didn't know you were in UK recently. I could have arranged a visit to Hermitage for you. Yours, Mike.

**Response:** No problems! Please distribute via website....Bob

#### **From Dave Carney 30 March (Ex Canadian Survey Service)**

Thanks for sending this Bob (ie. Bulletin 48). I really appreciate it as I don't often check the web site. We live parallel lives as we are now enjoying our first grandchild, a boy, and we spent time in England last fall, including attending "39 Steps". Hilarious. John Buchan was Governor General of Canada about the time he wrote that.

I have to brag a bit here, as Canucks do, as we were in the old country to attend our son's grad from Oxford. He did a Master's in business and is now working to try and earn his first dollar as an entrepreneur. After close to two years...

Best wishes from here and keep up the good work!....Dave

**Bill and Anne Boyd** have been 'grey-nomading up the Queensland coast as far as Cooktown calling and staying in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Cape Hillsborough (Mackay), for a week each, overnight in Townsville, Cairns and Mossman for a total of three weeks including two days in Cooktown. Nothing too uncivilized. There was a family wedding somewhere along the way and Bill's mother's 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in Maryborough.

Bill had noted the death of WO1 Wally Thompson the first soldier to be appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM-A). Bill says....*I showed Wally over the Det one day out of the blue when he was visiting the school. He was a quiet unassuming bloke. He was not, at least on that day anyhow, the quintessential bellowing extrovert RSM type. I took an instant liking to him.*

Wally Thompson's valedictory published in the Sydney Morning Herald is well worth a read – 'control click on the following...<http://www.smh.com.au/national/-1z7l9.html>

### **Vietnam Map Request (from the April Magna Carto)**

I'm hoping you might be able to help me. I am involved with a volunteer group in Seymour, which is building the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk, an enormous project which will result in a series of walls which will list the names of every veteran and civilian who served in the Vietnam War. Stage One was finished in April of 2011. We are a very hard-working group of volunteers, making this happen with the assistance of various government entities and many wonderful sponsors. If you would like to have a look at further details, the website is [www.vvaavic.org.au/mitchell.asp](http://www.vvaavic.org.au/mitchell.asp).

I am currently working on signs for Stage Two, with which I am hoping you may be able to help me. I have been unable to find a map which details the layout of Vung Tau and where the various military units were located during the Vietnam War. Survey would have made these maps but I haven't been able to find one to date. Would you or your members have anything stored away which would be of help to me in my endeavours? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated as I currently have so little to work with. This project is very important to me, to the other volunteers, to the many veterans already following our progress. If you'd like to have a chat, or if you have any queries, please feel free to give me a call.....Kind regards, Carolynne Burgess...[burgess.signs@bigpond.com](mailto:burgess.signs@bigpond.com)

**Ed:** This is a fascinating project. I suggest you open the website above and have a look....Bob  
PS – I replied to Ms Burgess and referred her to the 1ATF layout map on my SVN history but of course it reflects only the 1966 situation. I suggested she approach the AWM if she had not already done so.

### **US Civil war pictures**

The websites shown below are collections of photographs of the US Civil War. They are fascinating, remarkably clear photographs. What do they have to do with RASVY ....in a word nothing; but have a look!....Bob Skitch

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/02/the-civil-war-part-2-the-people/100242/#articleTop>  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/02/the-civil-war-part-1-the-places/100241/>

### **The 'Lawrence of Arabia' – Survey connection**

Rob McHenry reports the following...

'I received the following email from Bruce Keeley in response to the latest Canberra Newsletter and in particular Peter Jensen's article on Gallipoli. Interesting connection to Lawrence of Arabia.'

Rob, The Major Newcombe RE, referred to in Peter's article was later Lieutenant Colonel. He was commanding officer to the Lieutenant Lawrence also mentioned, who was in fact Lawrence of Arabia. One connection between Lawrence and the Australian Surveyors in the Middle East was his coming upon Warrant Officer Murray who was plane tabling behind the Turkish lines.

At the opening of the Survey Corps museum at Bonegilla, Murray's son and our guest for the day,



Admiral Sir Brian Murray told me that his father recalled being surrounded by Arabs on horseback. From out of the middle came a man dressed in flowing white robes with a gold dagger through his belt, it was Lawrence. Lawrence said, "I'm Lawrence, who are you?" Murray's reply was, "I'm Murray, and I'm plane tabling." Lawrence then replied, "Well be careful, its dangerous out here.", and with that he rode off. They subsequently renewed their acquaintanceship in Cairo.

Newcombe was captured during the 3rd Battle of Gaza in November 1917, north of Beersheba. He named his son after Lawrence and was a pall bearer at his funeral. Regards, Bruce Keeley.

## VALE NOTICES

**Trevor David “Dave” King** The April Magna Carto advises that Dave King passed away early in December 2011 in Melbourne. Although Dave had been suffering for the last few years with emphysema and had been homebound he continued to keep his good sense of humour. Dave served as a draughtsman at Fortuna and was a sergeant on discharge in 1967 after twelve years of service. Dave was the Melbourne representative for the ExFortuna Association for many years and was an active attendee at Bendigo functions until his health failed.

Bob Skitch recalls keeping in touch with Dave over these past few years and Dave's sense of humour reflected in his many short pithy emails. Bob and Dave served in Vietnam together in 1966. Bob comments '*Dave was my Carto Sergeant in Vietnam (1966/67) and did a great job – set a standard that was maintained over following years. Dave and I were on the same Basic Course – 7/55.*' It is appropriate to re-publish a piece on David from an earlier Bulletin...

**Dave King** would be remembered by at least some of our Queensland members – those who served in the '50s and '60s and especially those who were in Vietnam 66/67. Dave was on the 7/55 Basic Course in the draughting stream and was my sergeant cartographer in Vietnam. Dave, one of the more sartorial members of our Corps (I recall he wore a dinner suit to our Basic Course break-up party), is not in the best of health these days. He emailed me as follows:...



**Dave at home**

*It has been almost 4 months since last we communicated. I was feeling proper poorly at the time so I've waited until mother nature settled things down. I'm now 80% fit and won't be any better as I have COAD or COPD whichever!! Putting it in a nut shell, I can't walk more than 10 yards without getting out of breath so Veteran Affairs are looking after my needs very well.*

*Thanks very much for your interesting notes on past members...they brought memories. I live 20 yards from Tony Slattery and wife. He was Topo for 6 years. I was best man at T's wedding and vice-versa at mine and have kept up a solid friendship ever since. In my weak old state I'm very fortunate to have Julieanne around as she gives me the RO's for the day as I tend to get a bit lazy. She does all my shopping and keeps me on my toes.*

*I'm still learning about this computer so here's hoping the village is absolutely fabulous. Everything you could possibly want is here and I'm wrapped.*

**Dave was forever the optimist.**



**Vale: Kevin Arnold Moody:** Kevin Moody passed away unexpectedly in the early hours of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at his home in Torquay, Victoria. At the time of his death he was surrounded by his family who had all been attending a family get-together in his home the night before. Kevin's death was unexpected because he suffered from no known ailments and was leading a fit, active and involved life. Kevin had a relatively short period of service in the Corps, transferring from Engineers after completing the 7/55 Basic Course at the School of Survey, Balcombe in May 1956. But in the three full years that Kevin served in Survey he was deployed on two iconic jobs of the Corps that were to set the direction of the Corps for the following two decades – Project Cutlass, the joint US Australian project to map New Ireland using the technique of shore-ship traversing/triangulation (during which Kevin was promoted to corporal) and then in 1958 the Charters Towers to Tennant Creek Tellurometer traverse.

In April 1959 Kevin left the Corps and joined 'Geosurveys of Australia', an oil exploration firm. Following a period of oil exploration work in the more remote parts of South Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland the firm sent Kevin to Portuguese East Timor for four months undertaking further oil work and having to side step around the 1959 uprising against the Portuguese authority. He was withdrawn by the firm and returned for a further five months in 1960. With a wedding approaching Kevin joined the Division of National Mapping where he continued through to retirement.

Kevin's Portuguese Timor experience has remained with him and in recent years he has researched Australia's continuing involvement with that nation both during WW2 and since then. Kevin could never forget the warm regard with which Timorese people held Australians, and extended to him during his work there. Kevin has recorded his own experiences in 1959 and 1960. It makes interesting reading and in particular the very moving story of his Timorese assistant and interpreter, Celestino Dos Anjos who had become proficient in English during WW2 with the Australian 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Company ('Sparrow Force') but who lost his own life and that of his family in the hands of the Indonesians in the 1983 pro-independence uprising. Kevin's story of Celestino won an RSL literary prize.

Perhaps that life was a little on the quiet side and with Lou Sommer (Survey Corps 1956 – 1965) they embarked on some very adventurous holidays – rafting the Franklin in Tasmania, cross-country skiing in the Australian Alps and then over three years floating, rafting and power boating (a tinny that is) the entire length of the Murray from its eastern most head-water to the Murray Mouth, claiming arguably that they were the first to do that. Quieter pursuits were sailing on Lake Eppalock. Kevin was well regarded in National Mapping, leaving that organisation from the Dandenong office as a senior cartographer in about 1990.

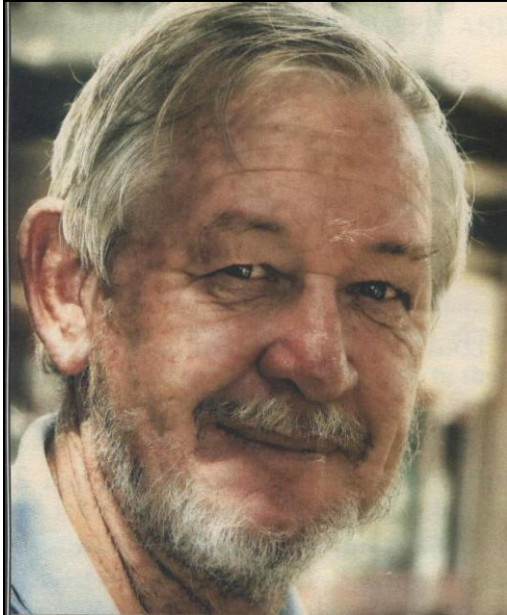
In recent times Kevin became very involved with the Torquay RSL and the principal organiser of their Anzac day observance. He undertook other associated tasks as he saw the need, for example, the cleaning of monuments along that section of the southern coast.

Kevin's funeral took place at Tuckers Chapel, Barrabool Hills Centre a very rural setting north of Torquay on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. His casket carried his Corps Association Beret and three medals – the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 (PNG clasp), the Australian Defence Medal and the PNG Defence Commemoration Medal (issued by the PNG Government) was attended by some 200 of Kevin's friends and past work associates and his close family. His army mates attending were Lou Sommer (and his wife Gillian), John Van de Graaff (with his son Leon) and Bob Skitch. It was a very moving ceremony and a celebration of Kevin's life. Lou undertook the role of MC, John gave a rendition of the old song 'Going Home', Kevin's sons Peter and Michael and only grandson James gave moving tributes and Bob spoke of early days in the Survey Corps with Kevin.

Kevin is survived by wife Myrie, sons Peter and Michael and grandson James.

*Bob Skitch adds a further personal comment: Kevin was a special friend, a unique person. Our families have remained close despite a separation of some 2000 kms. Kevin's wife Myrie is a close nursing colleague and friend of my wife Wendy and we were each 'best man' at each other's wedding. Bob sorely misses the loss of his close friend Kevin.*

**Graeme Stanley Dowd** passed away on 16 May after a two year battle with cancer of the Oesophagus.



Graeme's funeral and celebration of his life took place in the 'Church of the Little Flower' on Bribie Island on 24 May. More than 200 people were in attendance reflecting the range of activities and organizations with which Graeme was associated during his life on Bribie. Graeme was indeed a Bribie Islander and Bribie was his kingdom. On Bribie Graeme lived a very full life.

Graeme corps enlisted into Survey Corps in January 1968 and retired at the rank of Sergeant after completing twenty years in January 1988. He served on staff at the School of Military Survey, the Army Survey Regiment, 2 Field Survey Squadron and 8 Field Survey Squadron in PNG. Graeme served in Vietnam with A Section 1 Topographical Survey Troop from September 1969 to September 1970. Soon after leaving the Army Graeme settled on Bribie Island and established his cartographic and map retail business that flourished and continued in his ownership until the onset of his terminal illness. In all this he was ably assisted by his wife Marilyn.

Graeme's interests on Bribie apart from his cartographic business were golf and fishing. Graeme's funeral service was indeed a celebration of his life in the catholic tradition. I think we Survey Corps fellows attending learnt a great deal more about Graeme than we previously knew. Graeme was born in Melbourne in a family of ten. His six brothers, Brian, Kevin, Dennis, John, Wayne and Les were pall bearers for Graeme's flag draped coffin adorned with his slouch hat, medals, Association beret and Graeme's fishing rod, favourite golf club (the one he 'holed in one' with) and his beloved yellow hat. From his brothers we learnt many amusing stories of Graeme's early life.

Graeme is survived by his wife Marilyn and his two beautiful daughters Kym and Terri. RASVY Association members attending were President Alex Cairney, Greg Knight, Ross Smithwick, Bruce Gordon, Tony Gee, Ian Fitzgerald, John Smith, Colin Hargreaves, Dave O'Shannesy, Dave Anderson, Hank Opdem, Ric Downey, Rowan Shipley, Bob Skitch, Kerry Gallagher.

**Major Brian Fitzgerald:** Noel Sproles reports Brian was the son of long-time Director of Survey, Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald. He died in Melbourne on 14 April 2011 aged 78. I served with him in PNG in the sixties when he was a Captain in RAASC. He was a real party man and, from my observations at least, the very antithesis of his father in that regard. He leaves behind a family of seven children.

**Frank Cohen:** Brian Mead reports Frank Cohen passed away on 7 September 2011. Frank was a long term member of our Association's 4 Fd Svy Coy Old Comrades and the RA Svy Corps Association (WA). During WW2 Frank served with 4 Fd Svy Coy in WA. Later in 1948 he joined the ARA, serving as a Topographic Surveyor. Frank was interred at the Jewish Section of the Karrakatta Cemetery on 8 September 2011.

**Cpl Derek Taylor:** Phil Bray reports Cpl Derek Robert Taylor passed away on 3 June. He worked at Landgate. (WA Lands Dept)

**Judith Lambert**, wife of Jeff Lambert passed away in early April after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Judith's funeral took place at 'Eaglecrest' their beautiful home at Traveston south of Gympie. We who knew her will remember Judith as a very beautiful person and gracious lady. For those who did not know the Lamberts I have included here the paragraph from our last Bulletin that I used to introduce the review of Jeff's recent book '*Pathways to Gold*'.

Jeff Lambert served in RA Survey during the 1950's – early 60s, much of the time in the Northern Command Field Survey Section and later on the instructional staff at the School of Military Survey, achieving the rank of WO2. In 1957 the field survey section was engaged on inch to the mile mapping in the gold bearing area of Charters Towers and the old town of Ravenswood. Ravenswood became very significant in Jeff's life since he met his wife Judith Nutley there, the young daughter of the publican Snow Nutley. From those early days Jeff developed an intense interest in the story of gold and whenever the opportunity presented Jeff would be out with his pan and into any convenient stream that might be nearby panning for those alluring specs of gold. Jeff has often written of the many amusing incidents that occurred working with the section in the Charters Towers-Ravenswood area, of the people we would meet along the way; many have been published earlier issues of this Bulletin.

**Nance Shaw:** wife of Ken Shaw passed way on Tuesday 29 June. The following advise was sent by son Alan.....

*Nancy Shaw of Unit 69 Peninsular Village Pozieres Ave Umina NSW 2257 passed away Tues 29/5 at 2:40pm in the nursing home wing of Peninsular Village Retirement Complex after a long battle with cancer*

*Her funeral will be held Monday 4/6 at 10:30am at St Andrews Anglican Church 360 Ocean Beach Rd Umina 2257 & afterwards at Umina Beach Bowling Club*

*A beautiful lady who will be greatly missed*

Those of us who knew Nance would know that the bottom line of Alan's message says it all. Sincere condolences to Ken from all of us here in the north.

#### **MOUND SPRING AND CURIOSITY WITH AN OUTCOME.....Bob Skitch**

In 1960 the Topographic Squadron of the AHQ Survey Regiment undertook 1:250,000 mapping in Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria hinterland. Mapping control was obtained from mostly fourth order astro fixes and in some cases recovering astro stations established during WW2. It was a very pleasant task; the weather was fine and access to proposed control stations was easy, driving cross-country on grassy plains and light savannah scrub. I was working with Lou Sommer, a two man party.

An incident I recall very well involved one of the many 'mound springs' one finds around the Gulf hinterland. These are natural artesian springs cause by some fault in the stratas below the ground surface that allows the hot artesian water to trickle to the surface – hot because it is in contact with the geothermal layers deep down. Mound springs may be thousands of years old and are not in any way the result of man's activity – they are purely natural. The mound develops from the dissolved salts and other material accumulating around the edge of the spring probably supplemented and consolidated from sand and soil blown into the mound until gradually quite a high features ten to twenty metres in height develops around the mound covered in thick quite tropical vegetation quite different to any surrounding vegetation on the plains. There may be a stream trickling away from the mound but not for a distance greater than a couple of hundred metres. The vegetation is in many instances unique to any particular mound and the species can themselves be thousands of years old. There is generally a pool in the centre of the mound inhabited by water life, small invertebrates and even small fish.

Lou and I came across one such mound close to one of our observation points – like a small forest bristling up out of the plain. To satisfy my curiosity I asked Lou to drive to the base of the mound so we could investigate. Big mistake! We got to within about fifty metres of the mound and suddenly we sank



down to axle level and there we sat. Well, having got that far we resolved to at least complete the remaining 50 metres and climb the mound and look at the spring. This we did. The mound was slippery and greasy but finally we broke through to the spring and it was all I was led to believe it was; very hot and the air within the surrounding vegetation very humid. It was also very smelly – a strong sulphuric smell. We poked around a bit but didn't stay long and headed back to our now thoroughly bogged Landrover. We uncoupled the trailer – it wasn't bogged; the boggy soil if you could call it that, it resembled axle grease, had a crust over it. We very carefully turned the trailer around and

dragged it well clear of the boggy ground, a distance of maybe a hundred metres then returned to the Landrover. What to do? By this time it was very hot and we were both flagging somewhat, but out with the shovel and took it in turns excavating the wheels, front and back and lopping small branches from nearby trees and laying them in the wheel tracks back behind the Landrover to form a coir to the edge of the boggy ground. It was filthy work and we were both covered in the thick greasy smelly soil. It took all afternoon with frequent spells along the way. Finally we decided to give it a go and Lou behind the wheel and in low ratio four wheel drive gently applied a little accelerator and gradually the Landrover edged its way out of the bog and onto our coir and finally back to where the trailer was parked. I think we may have unloaded both Landrover and trailer before starting this operation humping everything well clear of the bog. Needless to say there was no astro that night. On the sched – taken by Harry Wright at the Georgetown base – I simply said we had driven a bit close getting around a mound spring and had become bogged and we were now clear. I think Harry was disappointed that he could not come out in the Studebaker and winch us clear.

We found a cattle trough with relatively clean water, stripped and washed ourselves and our meagre clothing and dressed in a clean set of shorts and shirt set up an overnight camp, ate from a few cans and collapsed onto our stretchers. Lou typically never said a cross word about the venture.

**OTHER STATE ASSOCIATION BULLETINS....All can be found on our website [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)**

### **ACT Newsletter**

#### **Jun 2011**

- WW2 – Military Mapmakes of the 7<sup>th</sup> – The story of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fd Svy Sect in the Northern Territory – Trevor Menzies. Many interesting historical photos.

#### **Dec 2011**

- Tall Tales and True – Ballad of the 'Running Bear'....Don Swiney – the story of Spr Jamie Lyle.
- 2 Fd Svy Sqn HQ building – once the 'School of Musketry. Photo from the Aust Inf magazine.
- Wives, Partners, Widows – Do you have a story to tell?....Dawn Laing.

#### **Jan 2012**

- 100 Years Ago – Survey Section RAE (Permanent) in 1912. (From Official History RA Svy – C.D. Coulthard Clark.
- Operation Beachcomer – Beach Surveys Papua & New Guinea 1975 by Peter Jensen – includes many excellent photos and the names of those taking part.

#### **May 2012**

- 'Linkedin' Community for RASVY
- Political Talk – Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott addressing a gathering in Bendigo promises to resolve the service pension (DFRDB etc) dispute.
- ANZAC Day 2012 – anberra march – excellent photos.
- Survey and mapping the Gallipoli Peninsula – 1915 by Peter Jensen. This is a fascinating and thoroughly researched quite lengthy article exploding myths regarding the non-availability of mapping on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915 and the Australian involvement. This is a significant contribution to the ANZAC story covering a hitherto unexplored aspect of that iconic campaign. Peters article includes segments of maps produced well before the campaign but never in the hands of those at the tactical level. It is a **must read**.
- Cape York Peninsula Mapping Project 1961 – Part 1 by Don Swiney. Many excellent photos and the names of those taking part.

## **NSW Newsletter**

### **Apr 2012**

- Anzac Day march arrangements
- Museum news – due to new security protocols all visits now by appointment only. Contact Sebastian Spencer, Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering, Tel 02 8782 4385.
- North West Patrol of Papua and New Guinea 1926-1928 – The north West Patrol re-mapped (Part 1) by Noel Ticehurst.
- New Guinea survey operations 1962 – Strickland and Fly River photographs.
- Change of address for NSW Association – now PO Box 63, Springwood NSW 2777

## **SA Newsletter**

### **No 55 – Summer 2012**

- Still Wrapped in Red Tape – Fate of Fortuna, remains undetermined.
- Keeping Up to Date – Defence Matters – Allan Adsett draws attention to recent Adelaide Advertiser article on new Defence Website – Defence Alumni Network.
- Senior's Progress Abroad 2011 style – Alex and Joan Munro's sweep across Europe.

### **Supplement to No 55**

- 1st Friday drinks abandoned but Christmas drinks at Saracen hotel well attended.
- Rob Langley now secretary.
- Overseas Travel – Ken and Pauline Jeffrey moving to Colorado for 12 months
- Notice: Annual picnic bbq 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Feb – Willow Bend at Vale Park.

## **WA – Westlink Magazine**

### **No 36 – Dec 2011**

- Vales: Cpl Ashley Birt (KIA), Frank Cohen – photos and many tributes.
- ANZAC Day speech at Villers-Bretonneux, France by the Hon Kevin Rudd MP.
- 'A Special Place – Araluen WA by Bob Skitch.
- Non recognition of 4 Fd Svy Coy (WW2) – Brian Mead
- Perth ANZAC Day 2011 report
- Buffet luncheon 26 Jun 2011 – report and photos
- 'Thanks Harry' by Chris Dixon – Harry Webb DCM at Lone Pine

## **Ex-Fortuna Assoc – Magna Carto**

### **Nov 2011**

- Fortuna Villa – future remains unclear – Bendigo Advertiser article
- Friends of Fortuna – Save Fortuna
- Harry Wright – Jim Jeffrey remembers
- Members in retirement – mention of Doug Carswell, Rowan Gillies, Brett Van Leewin, Rusty Williams, Don Swiney, Peter Biorac, Jeff Wiley, Bruce Hammond (from DIGO), Bob Thrower, Gary Warnest, Geoff Murray, John Waight, Gary Kenny, Jim Walls, Brian O'Neal, Phil Smalley.
- Vale – Frederick Ivan Moroni 1937 – 2011

- Survey updates
  - Perry Langeburg retired to Cairns
  - Doug Willis living in Townsville
- An original Bendigo Freedom of City Certificate found in rubbish tip
- Bob Mason – President of Bendigo Orchid Club
- Vietnam War – A good story for a change
- Centenary of RA Svy – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015
- Bendigo Happy Hours – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at Gold Mines Hotel
- Magna Carto – post out policy

#### Apr 2012

- No resolution to Fortuna Villa's future in sight.
- Coalition Policy on DFRDB Pension – Mr Abbott's promise
- Vale Trevor David King
- Vale Cpl Ashley Birt KIA
- The car in the lake – when Ted Burgess's panel van finished up in the lake - pics
- 2012 ANZAC Day – 3 Aust Fd Svy Coy
- Lost & Found
  - Karen Cornish looking for Maxine Davidson
  - Brett McAllister
  - Shane Schrodter
- Fortuna Villa Antiques
- Phil Brookes – The Grocers and Gunners Vietnam Tour 6 – 28 Nov 2012
- ANZAC Day Bendigo 2012 with many excellent photos of those taking part in the 2011 march.
- Vietnam Map Request – the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk at Seymour – article reproduced in this Bulletin.
- Bendigo Happy Hour
- Magna Carto postal distribution

#### POST SCRIPT and a touch of humour

#### Bob Dikkenburg

**Ed:** RA Svy has had many cartoonists in their ranks over the years, notably during WW2 when anyone professing artistic ability was drafted in as a cartographic draughtsman. Famous amongst these were the Boyd brothers. Others in more recent years developed their skills while serving in the Corps; one I remember in particular was Bill Shapcott during the 1950s. There were others.

**DIKKO**

By Bob Dikkenburg



Noel Sproles sent me this Dikkenberg cartoon commenting that Bob is continuing to serve in RAE. I thought I should contact Bob both to get his story and to get his permission to use the cartoon in our Queensland Bulletin. His reply follows...

I'm sorry for not having replied sooner but I've been away on linguist duties. (Dutch and Pidgin English)

You can use any of my cartoons at any time.

I was with 4 FD SVY SQN from 1971 to 1980 and then from 1986 to 1996 in the GRES.

When the Corps was disbanded I went to Headquarters 9th Brigade where I still serve today.

RAEs are all good blokes but their hierarchy have on occasions given me a fair bit of grief so I still consider myself RASVY and on occasions still wear the hat badge. I'm the only SSGT Geo Tech in the Australian Army and where Colonel William Light was the first Military Surveyor in South Australia, I will be the last.

I had quite a battle to get my trade and rank recognized even though I was fully qualified at the time of the Corps amalgamation. They were trying very hard to get rid of the SSGT rank. My boss, the Brigadier, had to intervene or I would have been reduced in rank to SGT for no good reason but that's all water under the bridge now.

I still run a cartoon strip in the Army News and draw a lot of caricatures for people leaving the ADF including the CDF and CA. The HQ is not quite like RASVY, (the best Corps I ever served in or likely to serve in) but they are a really great bunch of people and I enjoy working here. When people like one of my cartoons I'll say "I drew that" and when they don't like them (which is most of the time) I'll say "Geez I don't know what that Dikko bloke was thinking".

I support all the 9th Brigade Exercises with maps and mapping products, run a map store, look after 6 different web pages, do all sorts of graphics, posters and flyers and support several units interstate including INT and the Regiment in Perth.

My philosophy is fairly simple and that is while I still enjoy it I will continue to serve in the army and when the day comes that I wake up and think "I've had enough of this" then it will be time to leave.

Anyway, I hope that life is treating you extremely well

Kind regards - Dikko

Rene (Bob) Dikkenberg,  
SSGT Geomatic Technician/ Illustrator,  
Headquarters 9th Brigade,  
Keswick Barracks, Adelaide SA  
0410 396 771