



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch
BULLETIN

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

CHRISTMAS EDITION – No 55

DECEMBER 2013



Peace to the World

MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON BRING YOU HAPPINESS AND JOY AND MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE ALL YOU WOULD WISH
This Christmas let us think of Cpl Ashley Birt of 1st Topographical Survey Squadron - KIA Afghanistan 29 October 2011 and his family.

AFGHANISTAN ROLL OF HONOUR AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

**.....Showing members of the Royal Australian Engineers killed in action.
CPL ASHLEY BRT 6 Engineer Support Regiment (5th from top)**



CALENDAR 2014 (outline)

25 April – Anzac Day – Dawn service at Enoggera (location TBA) and City march.

28 June – (Saturday) Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner at the United Service Club.

6 September – Annual Reunion and AGM (location TBA)

December – Drinks at I Topo and Derek Chambers Award presentation

COMMITTEE

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

NOTICES

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.

For your convenience a hyperlink to our website will be provided on the email advice.

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

Our 'What Did We Do' project remains open for further contributions. Contributions have dried up over the past 12 months. 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 .

BERETS – BERETS – BERETS

Our stocks of our ever popular beret are now depleted. However, stocks are held at Christie's in Sydney. Be distinctive in the RA Survey Association headdress. **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.

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

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.

ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST BULLETIN

2013 AGM & ANNUAL REUNION at KILCOY – Sat 7th September

Report by our President Alex Cairney

The meeting was held at the Kilcoy RSL (Kilcoy being the location where Northern Command Field Survey Section was in camp in 1940; later becoming 2 Field Survey Company and then 5 Field Survey Company, serving throughout Queensland and then New Guinea).

The Annual General Meeting was preceded by an excellent meal provided by the RSL Ladies Auxiliary. The meal comprised a main course of a choice of two roast meats with five vegetables followed by a selection of sweets. Wines selected by our wine buff treasurer Ross Smithwick were served in ample quantity throughout the meal with of course the option of a beer from the bar. The usual pleasantries were attended to, and the President stood the existing committee down, handing over to Dennis Gregor to fill the vacant chair. The pre existing committee was returned by unanimous vote.

The main item of general business raised by the committee was arrangements for the Queensland Association's celebration of the Corps' 100th birthday which will take place in 1915. National functions are planned for both Canberra and Bendigo but many of our members are of the mind that a Brisbane based function would also be appreciated. Your committee will investigate and report.

A number of members stayed at Kilcoy overnight and partook of the country hospitality.

Those Attending were...

Peter & Barbara Bates-Brownsword; Jim & Sandra Beard; Alex Cairney; Stan & Helen Campbell; Peter Cross; Ian & Jacinta Fitzgerald plus 1; Dennis Gregor; Jeff & Susan Turner; Alan & Diana Kavanagh; Greg Knight; Barry Lutwyche; Col Moorhead; Hank Opdem; Rowan Shipley; Grant Small; Dick Small; Ross Smithwick; Ted Van Ginneken; Kym & Faye Weston. **Apologies** from Bob Skitch, Tony Gee.
A selection of photos is at the end of this Bulletin.

I TOPO AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The 1 Topo awards presentations took place at the Murray Bar on Thursday 5th December 2013 and of course that included the Association's *Derek Chambers Award* to the sapper or junior NCO who had displayed outstanding Esprit de Corps throughout the preceding year. This year the presentation was made by Greg Knight, our Association secretary to Corporal Terry Tucker. This was the second occasion that Cpl Tucker has won the award. Corporal Tucker is a Multimedia Technician (this trade was formerly Illustrator Reprographic). Corporal Tucker was presented with a book voucher to the value of \$50.00 to use as he saw fit.

The occasion also saw the conferral of the inaugural *Corporal Ashley Birt Award* for outstanding leadership, awarded to Corporal Stephen Neale, presented by the Squadron Officer Commanding Major Stephen Wright. The awards occasion is the Squadron's end of year windup with the members having a great deal of fun. Needless to say the bar does a good deal of business.

100TH ANNIVERSARY RASVY CORPS 2015

Ed: Celebration of the creation of the Australian Survey Corps (later Royal) is being planned by two of our State Associations; the Fortuna Association and the ACT Association. The two events are coordinated with the ACT event to take place in Canberra on the XX of June 2015 and the Bendigo event on the 3rd July 2015. Thus it will be possible to attend the Canberra event then move on to Bendigo.

John and Tracey Phillips of the Fortuna Association have advised....

"We think it is prudent to advise everyone of intended functions planned around the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps in 2015 so all those interested can have plenty of time to organise their availability if desired and also pass the news to any other ex-member or friend of RASVY.

The proposed itinerary is:

- **Fri 03 Jul 2015** - Early Arrivals informal get together (possibly RSL, Havilah Rd, Bendigo)
- **Sat 04 Jul 2015** (Evening) - Major Function (All Seasons, Mclvor Hwy, Bendigo)
- **Sun 05 Jul 2015** (luncheon) - BBQ Luncheon (Gold Mines Hotel, Bendigo) & Visit to Fortuna (yet to be approved)

Other optional functions are also being considered during the day of Sat 04 Jul 2015 including golf or winery tour but these are only conceptual at this stage. Numbers will be limited for the major function but hopefully the size of the venue will allow for all those wanting to attend.

It is our intention to give plenty of notice of the confirmed itinerary so ex-members/friends etc can give a Notice of Intention to attend.

Note that 2015 is not only our 100th anniversary but the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli so as you can imagine the year will be very busy for all military organisations who we would imagine to be planning major commemorative events themselves.

Rob McHenry (ACT Association) has advised in the recent ACT Newsletter the following...

"This is to provide early information regarding planned Canberra activities associated with the 100th Anniversary of the Corps. It is stressed that there is a long way to go and that like all good plans, this is subject to change. The following activities, open to all ex-members and families will be conducted over the afternoon and evening of **Wednesday, 1 July 2015**.

- Afternoon gathering at the Australian War Memorial RASvy Plaque where our wartime contribution will be acknowledged. Group photos will be taken. Guest speaker.
- Late afternoon RASvy reception at the National Library with guest speaker and refreshments. Reception to incorporate the final release of Peter Jensen's Corps Nominal Roll.
- Evening dinner for all members and partners at a location to be advised. Guest speaker. A committee has been coerced into volunteering to organise the above. Details such as timings and cost will be provided as plans are confirmed.

A VIETNAM INCIDENT

Ed: For those of us who saw Vietnam service with the Detachment 1st Topographical Survey Troop (later 'A' Section) that unique period of our military and survey career now 41 to 47 years ago can often sit in the recesses of our mind coming to the surface from time to time – welcome or unwelcome. A chance meeting by Allan Adsett with two Vietnam veterans in a Geraldton WA caravan park brought to light an incident not told before. In his history of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark makes light of the level of risk we Survey soldiers sometimes undertook and while we were not leading infantry patrols there were times when there was an ever present risk in carrying out field survey work. It is often interesting in hearing of how others saw us. The following email texts reflect this.....

From Allan Adsett to Noel Sproles relayed to Bob Skitch

My wife Judyne and I along with my sister-in-law Margaret were recently in Geraldton WA for a few days and one evening, while walking around the caravan park, we met two fellow Vietnam Veterans after noticing a Vietnam Vet sticker on the back window of a car. One was ex-5RAR (first Tour 1966-67) and the second ex-General Hospital (Vung Tau). Margaret introduced herself as the widow of an ex-3RAR (second tour 1971) soldier and I introduced myself as serving with 1 Topo Svy Tp in 1971. The infantryman immediately mentioned an interesting incident with a Survey party near Binh Ba. 5RAR were patrolling around Bin Ba and made contact with the Viet Cong. After the contact was over they came across two surveyors with a theodolite. The senior surveyor (he believes it was a SGT) was only armed with a 9mm pistol. When challenged if they heard the nearby contact, their reply was "Yes we heard it but as we were not involved we continued with our work. Besides you want your maps don't you?"...Regards, Allan Adsett

From Noel Sproles to Allan Adsett

Allan, A good story. The timing suggests that it would have to have been when Bob Skitch was OC. He says that A Sect did do work in the Binh Ba rubber in this period. While he knows nothing of this incident, he has an idea of someone who may be able to confirm it one way or the other. If so, I will let you know.....Regards, Noel

From Bob Skitch to Noel Sproles

Noel: It sounds a good story and if it happened it was certainly during my time – up till June 1967. 5RAR (we only had two battalions – 5 & 6) was based on the northern side of Nui Dat and were broadly responsible for the northern sector of the TAOR. At that time we had field work in the Binh Ba-Binh Gia area, as I recall it coordinating the AAVN Battery just north of there and putting a couple of control points into Binh Gia. Also we linked onto an Artillery traverse up LTL2 done by Peter Sadler with the Survey Section of the Locating Battery – the only actual survey work they ever undertook – I had four or five of their surveyors to supplement my own meagre resources. If the incident occurred at all the sergeant would have been Stan Campbell although it wasn't ever mentioned to me. We never deployed a field party without infantry protection, but because of the slender nature of the infantry resources at the time we often were allocated AAVN or worse, provincial force. They would sit around with their tranies blaring and more times than not simply evaporate by early afternoon. All of our field people carried SLRs or Owens and that was the requirement even within Nui Dat base area – with two full mags in the pouch or pocket. Only the warrant officers (I think) and I were issued with a 9mm Browning pistol. I always carried an Owen and most likely that is what Stan would have had. I think the survey party would have been at least three, maybe five and the rest of the party would have had SLRs.

The incident sounds possible but I think I would have heard about it. Also we would have known if there was some sort of screen patrol in the area. Stan was and is a sort of phlegmatic bloke, never ruffled and would be inclined to play down an incident like that. Nevertheless, if it happened I am sure I would have heard about it. I will send the little story to Stan and see what he makes of it.....Bob

From Stan Campbell to Bob Skitch – relayed to Noel Sproles

I was certainly working around Binh Ba with 5 RAR, always with an escort, and there were several contacts in the area while we were working. However I didn't carry a pistol, but did have an Owen (which was 9mm) and I would not have acted so casually without the escort.

Approving our every movement. I don't recall the incident, but as I was the only Sgt surveyor it must have been me that they spoke to. However the details of the conversation probably have been distorted in the haziness of time. Sounds like another war myth....Regards Stan

From Bob Skitch to Noel Sproles

Noel: Here is Stan's response. He seems to think it may have happened but not quite as related to Allen Adsett. Stories tend to develop and grow – to make them a better story. That has happened to my venture into the Nui Thi Vi's with Brian Firms during a 5RAR clearing operation. I have heard a few versions of that, one of which seemed to impress Chris Coulthard-Clark. But it really was quite ordinary. Nevertheless, in some circumstances our blokes stuck their necks out and I wonder now why I let that happen.....Bob

VIETNAM – INSECTICIDE DECEIT?: - the truth about insecticides used at NUI DAT

by John Mordike*

***Ed:** The use of deadly poisons in insecticides fungicides and defoliants in Vietnam has generated a good deal of public debate, claims and counter-claims since the end of the Vietnam war forty years ago. 'Agent Orange', the toxic mixture used extensively as a defoliant is well known and its deleterious impact on soldiers caught in its spray or even venturing into areas where it had been applied is well known. But the use of extremely toxic insecticides by the Australian Army is less well known. Dr John Mordike has carried out a revealing and disturbing study and produced an extensive report with a supporting article which deserves wide dissemination to all those who served. The article, which itself is very comprehensive is in the hands of your Association. In 'word' format it is ten pages in length, a little long to include in its entirety in this Bulletin, **but a copy can be sent to any who may have an interest.** Contact Ed by phone or email: 3350 1550 or bob@skitch.me. Dr Mordike's introduction to his article is copied below.....*

Introduction

Over the last two years I have undertaken a study on the use of insecticides at the 1 ATF base at Nui Dat, the home of the Australian and the New Zealand fighting force in Vietnam. The most important finding of this study is that much of the truth about insecticide use by 1 ATF has never been revealed.

Taking a broad perspective, my study has revealed the roles played by the Army, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Primary Industry in the examination and reporting of the use of insecticides by the Australian Army in Vietnam.

This article narrows the focus. It presents a synopsis of the findings of my study in relation to the use of insecticides at Nui Dat. The article is based on primary source documents from Army's Vietnam records. The records are held by the Research Centre, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and are available to the public for research under the terms of the Archives Act (1983).

After the passage of forty years and a Royal Commission in 1983-5, it is time the truth was revealed.

*John Mordike is a Vietnam veteran and professional historian. He graduated from the Royal Military College in 1966 and served in Vietnam as the Officer Commanding 12 Field Regiment LAD. He has a BA and LittB from the University of New England and a PhD from the University of New South Wales. He is the author of 'An Army for a Nation : A history of Australian military developments 1880-1914' and "We should do this thing quietly" : Japan and the great deception in Australian defence policy 1911-1914'.

SHADES OF CENDERAWASIH

From Sydney Morning Herald Thu 1 Nov 13

Two recent accounts by former Australian defence force personnel who worked in the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya (now West Papua) in 1977 suggests there was ADF knowledge at that time of alleged atrocities committed by Indonesian troops.

The Defence Department has issued a qualified denial of a claim made by the Asian Human Rights Commission that military aircraft supplied by Canberra were used in bombing runs over Papuan villages resisting Indonesian rule.

Defence told Fairfax Media that "an initial search of Defence archives does not support the claim that two Iroquois helicopters were supplied by Australia to Indonesia in the 1970s". But it side-stepped questions about ADF knowledge of the alleged massacres detailed in the report. The commission claims, in a report released on October 24, that both US-supplied Bronco aircraft and Iroquois helicopters were used in bombing and strafing runs over Papuan villages that were suspected of aiding the Free Papua Movement (or OPM). It said at least 4000 and possibly up to 9000 Papuan civilians died in air and ground attacks launched by Indonesian troops in 1977-78.

Now two accounts from former ADF members operating in the region at the time have come to light. The Australians were part of *Operation Cenderawasih*, a mapping exercise of Irian Jaya being carried out by an army survey team, supported by RAAF Iroquois helicopters and Caribou and Hercules aircraft.

The first account, by former major Don Swiney and former sergeant Peter Jensen, was published in 2011 in an Australian survey corps association newsletter.



Wreckage: The RAAF Iroquois that crashed. Photo: Fairfax Archive

The authors say "The Indonesian Army [in July 1977] was conducting an intense operation against the OPM, including setting villages alight with rockets from the air and accompanying ground operations." Mr Swiney was the commander of the Australian field survey squadron. He told Fairfax that "I was aware of a ground operation based at Wamena and I estimated at the time of in excess of a battalion of [Indonesian] troops supported from the air by an OV-10 [Bronco] aircraft. This aircraft was armed with rockets. I witnessed from the air, huts in villages that had been burnt out but how that was done, I can only surmise." The Australians had a forward base at Wamena near the Baliem Valley (a focus of OPM

activity) and were sharing an airfield with the Indonesian army from which they observed rockets being loaded onto Indonesian-operated aircraft.

The second account, written recently by former RAAF crewman Paddy Sinclair for a squadron reunion, also refers to Indonesian atrocities. Mr Sinclair was on board a RAAF Iroquois helicopter that crashed while on survey operations in July 1977 on a steep, jungle-clad ridge near the Baliem Valley. An Indonesian army surveyor was also on board. In his account of the crash and subsequent rescue, Mr Sinclair reports that he and another crewman had used masking tape to write the word "AUSTRALIA" in makeshift letters on the tail of the helicopter.

Mr Sinclair says this was because "Indonesian military were allegedly carrying out atrocities against the local population using Bell Iroquois aircraft painted in the same livery as the RAAF helicopters."

However, another ADF source disputes this, saying "AUSTRALIA" was emblazoned on the tail as a way of alerting the OPM not to mistake the RAAF helicopter for an offensive aircraft.

Richard Woolcott, who was Australian Ambassador to Jakarta in 1977, said he had not received reports about atrocities from Australian defence attaches at the embassy.

The Hong-Kong based Asian Human Rights Commission claims the Indonesian army's 1977-78 assaults against Papuan villages constituted a "neglected genocide".

A BRIEF HISTORY

Irian Jaya, or West Papua as its now known, has long been a sensitive issue for Indonesia, Australia and Papua New Guinea. It occupies the western half of the island of New Guinea, sharing a border with PNG. Originally part of the Dutch East Indies, it was formally taken over by Indonesia in 1969 after a disputed "act of free choice" undertaken by selected tribal leaders. The rebel Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Free Papua Movement or OPM) has resisted the territory's incorporation into Indonesia since the 1960s.

Ed: The accurate account of the incident by Don Swiney and Peter Jensen is in the ACT Newsletter of March 2011.

NSW BUSHFIRES – Richard (Jacko) Jackson-Hope

Richard and Anne Jackson-Hope live in the Blue Mountains in Hawksbury Road, Springwood NSW. This is the area that was badly hit by the September bushfires. Richard's house was saved but he lost his 'shed' that contained amongst other things all of his records, photos and computer and hard drives.

Richard emailed... *it was a blow – it happened so quickly there was nothing we could do. Anyway my black humor kicked in at least we do not have to have a garage sale, Ann is not the best at the moment. It has been a shock as the three houses on the other side of ours were burnt down.*

I am at the SES at the moment we have 30 teams from out of area in to help,

Noel Ticehurst (via Charlie Watson) emailed all Associations... *I spoke to Richard Jackson-Hope (Jacko) this morning. He was in his home at Springwood. He said he was at home when he spotted a puff of smoke on a ridge to the west. He immediately rang 000. Twenty minutes later the fire was in the gully about one hundred metres to the rear of the house. Jacko estimated the speed of the winds at 100 kilometres/hour. It was very dark under the smoke while he was fighting the fire. He was able to save the house. The caravan and a large shed which contained all of his survey gear and computer equipment was destroyed. The three houses to the north of his were totally destroyed. Both Jacko and Ann are safe.*

I first met Jacko in a hut at Kapooka in February 1958; two seventeen year old boys just out of school. We were allotted to RASvy where we did the 13/58 Basic Course. We remained friends and often meet in Canberra, Springwood or Sydney. Jacko has been a member of the SES for many years, helping others in trouble and need. He is also on the Board of the Springwood Hospital. He also runs the NSW branch of the Ex-Survey Corps Association. Have a look at the NSW bulletin on the RASvy website.

I believe that one of ours who has so unselfishly help many others should be helped by us in some way. I don't have anything in particular in mind, so I am open to suggestions. I hope to be in Springwood early next week. Regards, Noel Ticehurst.

Ed: Richard was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the community a few years back.

Richard's own account of the fire with photos is at the end of this Bulletin.

PERSONALIA and other jottings

Jim Jefferies:

Ed: The recent passing of Colonel John Hillier put me in touch with Jim Jefferies and I asked him to tell me a little of his post RA Survey career. I was of course aware that Jim had transferred from the British Army Royal Engineers Survey and had served with 84 Survey Squadron RE in Singapore shortly before my own service with that unit. I recall that in my time with the Army Survey Regiment Jim worked in the Tech Development Cell (I think that is what we called it). The following is an edited version of what Jim sent me.....

Mavis and I had a nephew and wife visiting from UK a couple of weeks ago, and we took them to walk the Tallangatta Rail Trail. We sat on a bench at the western end of the refurbished rail bridge over the lake, which is now 99% full. There was a plaque noting John Hillier's efforts in getting the Trail on its feet. Then on Saturday, she, who reads the funeral notices, said, 'isn't this the man whose plaque we saw last week?' I would never have become aware that he had died otherwise.

I was two years in 84 Survey Squadron RE, and spent about half that time attached to 81 Squadron RAF at Tengah. I had previously been posted to JARIC(UK) RAF, for some years. Captain Mal Hayes was posted in during my time. I didn't know him; he seemed to be in Jesselton most of my time. Major Busk was OC, followed by Major Tom Farmer. I had quite a good nine year career in Royal Engineers Survey before I met Major Ted Laker and then Pat O'Connor and Kevin Walsh, ending up as a Staff Sergeant then dropping back to Sergeant in RA Survey.

Twenty four years ago, we bought an old house in Bethanga, and have renovated it over the years. . During my time at the School of Military Survey I did a Diploma in Computing at Charles Sturt University in Albury. When I retired from the School, I was headhunted by Albury Council Engineers, and was responsible for creating specialised map products from their digital map base, which was created by Russell Milton (ex RA Survey). This at that time required considerable programming. Now it's all point, click and drag! I ended up in the IT Department as 2IC, and was Acting Manager for some time. I eventually retired 5 years ago when I turned 67 (seemed a good idea to go before senility took over!!).

You may or may not have known that I was Tower Master at St Paul's Bendigo during your time there. Rings of bells in rural areas are few and far between, but having taught ringers in Wangaratta in the 1980s, we were fortunate to have a ring installed at Albury in the early 1990s. So now I am Ringing Master there. Last November I went to London to attend the 374th Annual Dinner of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the oldest association of Ringers anywhere, and collected a certificate for 50 years membership. I met up with John and Sue Collins for Sunday lunch at the Army and Navy Club, before heading off to Heathrow and the journey home. I haven't yet heard from John since their last trip, but I understood that he intended to call in on you when in Qld.

I manage the Aged Care facility where John Hillier was, and they tried to put me through to his wife Joy, but she did not answer; however Joy is still there. Best wishes, Jim

Faces of the Corps

Ed: Rob McHenry (President of the Canberra Association) emailed me the following...

As part of the 100th anniversary of the Corps activities to be conducted by the Canberra Association,

we would like to produce a "Faces of the Corps" presentation. The idea is to get a photo of as many Corps members as possible, ideally but not necessarily connected with a Corps activity and project them on a large screen in a continuous loop during our reception and/or dinner on the 1 July 2015. Noting the years and the number of people who have served in the Corps, we will obviously not be successful in adding everyone to the presentation. However, I seek your help in getting as many as possible - not just from Canberra but from all over Australia. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if each state representative passed this email on to their members and if each member who receives this would contribute to our "Faces of the Corps" presentation.

John Mobbs has volunteered to produce the presentation and all images should be forwarded to him. A maximum file size of 2Mb per image would be appreciated. Also, if anyone has analogue pics and can't get them scanned, John has also volunteered to do that for them and return them by mail. John's contact details are: email: jdmhome@iinet.net.au; Ph: 02 4471 1322, Mob: 0404 820 776, Skype: Horrebow', Postal: P.O. Box 3413, Batehaven NSW 2536

Tony Gee in sending his apology for non-attendance at the Kilcoy AGM and Reunion commented on his travel itinerary.... 'We will be away overseas at the time cruising somewhere between Alaska and Miami. Anyway have a wonderful day at Kilcoy. *Regards Tony G'*

Bob Skitch advises that after six bouts of chemotherapy (they have the unpleasant name of CHOP) and goodness knows what else, he is now in 'remission' and will live forever. Bob says if one is looking for a Christmas present then that is the best there is. It takes a little while to recover previous energy levels but day by day it gets better. Bob is swimming and walking daily. ☺ ☺ ☺

Peter Bowen [Peter J Bowen@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Peter_J_Bowen@yahoo.com.au) or mobile: 0419946348.

Ed: It is often only on the death of a member when by way of an obituary we remember their service in the Corps and their subsequent career. Occasionally one of our members with or without prompting may commit a few words, a reflection, on their time in the Corps and what they have done since. The email from Jim Jeffries above is one such example and Peter Bowen's story following and on page ZZ is another.

Many may remember Peter Bowen either from his six years of RA Survey service or in his subsequent civilian career. Peter is well known to the Western Australian branch of our Association and has from time to time featured in 'Westlink'. Issue 34 of Westlink (July 2010) gives some indication of the path Peter's career has followed in applying his spatial science knowledge to Aboriginal Land Title. Peter Bowen enlisted into the Royal Australian Survey Corps in April 1969 and undertook the surveying stream of the 36/69 Initial Employment (IET) course at Bonegilla. Before the course he spent some time at the Map Depot then still at Kensington. He was posted to Western Command Field Survey Unit in April 1970, then located at the Artillery Barracks in Fremantle, later moving to Karrakatta as 5 Field Survey Squadron. Peter says his role in the Squadron was mainly in photogrammetry and map editing but he participated in a Kimberley's Aerodist operation spending time on Scott Reef and Sandy Island. Peter rose to the rank of temporary sergeant during his six year engagement. He left the Corps in March 1975 and commenced a Diploma in Cartography for his military to civilian transition. Peter maintains his Survey Corps experience was invaluable for his civilian career that followed. Peter has written of his post RA Survey career 'Thanks for the Memories' an edited version of which is on Page 14 of this Bulletin ...

Peter and Dell Osterhage

Ed: Our Bulletin 41 of March 2010 records how Peter and Dell Osterhage sold their home and Peter resigned his job with the Master Builders Association, bought a yacht and went sailing. Bulletin 41 records their first sailing trip along the Queensland coast and to South East Asia. This bulletin has their subsequent tale of sailing 'Sailing Adventures' on page 15 as well as a page of great photos.

Joyce (Joy) Buckland: Charlie Watson reports the passing of Joy BucklandThe *Canberra Times* of the 12th October 2013 notified the death at the age of 96 of Joyce (Joy) Buckland wife of former Director of Survey, BRIG Frank Buckland. Her funeral service was held at the Norwood Park Crematorium, Sandford Street, Mitchell on Tuesday 15 Oct 13.

Nathaniel Richards John Hillier

Ed: The following obituary from the Border Mail says a lot many of us didn't know about John Hillier. John was one of the more contentious senior officers of the Corps but whatever views one might hold he certainly had a total commitment to our Corps and a will to make things happen.

Most of us of the 1950s to 1980s vintage could recall stories of John and one that comes to my mind concerns smoking. John was virtually a chain smoker and not a very tidy one. One night in Canberra, sometime in the 1970s I would think, he woke at night with severe chest pains. Joy rushed him to hospital fearing the worst but he was back home again the next morning. He gave up smoking in an instant – without fuss he simply gave it up. Sheer will-power but that was John.

I recall the first Christmas in Vietnam – Christmas 1966 – the Detachment received much largesse from Corps members and units in Australia. I received a letter from Major John Hillier expressing in the warmest of words John's personal appreciation of the work we were doing at Nui Dat. I was more than a little surprised and regret that I did not keep the letter. There were certainly two sides to John. I knew and experienced both sides.

The ACT Newsletter 3/13 of October 2013 contains a more formal statement of John's military career prepared by Peter Jensen with additional comments and reflections by Charlie Watson, Bob Williams and Peter Jensen. It also contains a letter by John of some twelve pages that has just come to light (at least as far as the Association is concerned) detailing line by line the mapping history of the Corps and the development of the various map series. It is a remarkable statement of the Corps history over its 81 years and I believe I would be right in saying that much of it has not entered the Coulthard-Clark official history.

Without denigrating John's 37 years of service to the Royal Australian Survey Corps, an achievement that parallels that has been his commitment to the preservation of the High Country Rail Trail (Wodonga to Cudgewa) including the Coowee bridge as a walking trail. Last December (2012) the Trail was opened and featured in the Border Mail. The article was reproduced in our Bulletin 51 of December 2012. It seems fitting to include it again in this Bulletin because it says so much about John. The final paragraph says it all..... Sitting on a bench built in his friend's honour Mr Hillier pointed to the bridge they had worked tirelessly towards for so many years. "Look there" he said. "That's quite something".

In the Border Mail obituary below i have included four 'death notices' that reflect the esteem with which John was held by his extended family and the Albury Wodonga community.

End of the trail for Army Chief..... by Howard Jones

From the Border Mail.....Edited by Bob Skitch with minor corrections and additions.

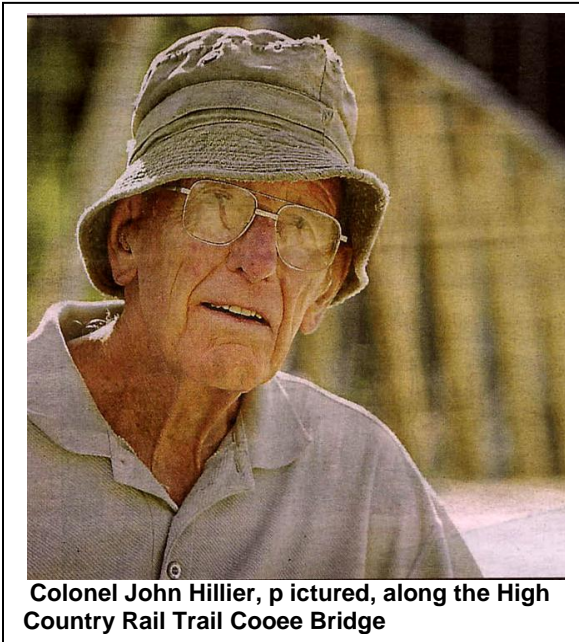
The retired army colonel largely responsible for the High Country Rail Trail on the old Wodonga Cudgewa line, John Hillier has died at Westmont in Baranduda. He was 85.

Colonel Hillier spent 37 years in the Royal Australian Survey Corps including a period as Chief Instructor at the Army School of Military Survey at Bonegilla.

His final military appointment was Director of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and he then undertook the honorary role of Colonel Commandant.

John had several overseas postings including Singapore and Jakarta. He served on mapping projects in Papua New Guinea and advised several Pacific island nations on survey matters. Colonel Hillier and his wife Joy and their three sons originally from Adelaide first lived at Bonegilla in 1966. After retiring from military service Colonel Hillier worked as a civilian in Darwin and Canberra. John and Joy loved the Border area and they moved back in 1997. The move allowed John to indulge a love of sailing on Hume Weir.

Colonel Hillier, an engine driver's son who lost his mother at seven, left school at 15 to work as a clerk and then draughtsman. After joining the Army in 1946 his early survey duties included the exploratory mapping surveys of the Kosciuszko area for the Snowy Mountains Hydro- electric Project and the Woomera Rocket Range in central Australia. He was commissioned in 1951 as a lieutenant and married Joy Harford in Adelaide in 1952. While stationed in South Australia Colonel Hillier was off work



Colonel John Hillier, pictured, along the High Country Rail Trail Cooee Bridge

for 18 months with tuberculosis. Returning to work he served at the AHQ Survey Regiment in Bendigo and then at the School of Survey at Balcombe. Colonel Hillier returned to Balcombe as Senior Instructor and moved with the School to Bonegilla in 1966. He served with the British Army in Singapore as Deputy Assistant Director of Survey on Headquarters Far East Land Forces from 1967 for two years.

From 1969 until retirement from the service in 1983 John held senior roles in Canberra and Jakarta. He became Director of the Corps with the rank of Colonel in 1978. After retirement from the army John worked as a civilian for the Northern Territory Government and the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra.

After final retirement and moving to Bonegilla in 2000 John worked tirelessly to preserve the disused Wodonga to Cudgewa line as a rail trail, lobbying government to ensure this Crown land was not sold. He founded advisory groups, lobbied for support and negotiated grants of hundreds of thousands of dollars to develop the

trail and restore bridges.

of Albury Wodonga once described him as “bower bird, map maker, planner, recruiter, chaser of sponsors and grants, designer of signs, history and heritage adviser, working bee coordinator, risk management assessor and implementer and much, much more”

Colonel Hillier is survived by his wife, sons, four grand children and a great grandson. A private funeral was held last week.

Death Notices – Border Mail dated 28th Sep 2013

HILLIER, John "Historian". - The members of the Bonegilla Hall Committee wish to extend their deepest sympathies to Joy and family. We acknowledge John's passion for the history of Bonegilla, the Migrant camps and the families that built the town. His vast collection of writings and photos depicting the story of Bonegilla is there for us to enjoy at the Bonegilla Community Hall. His dedication and contribution to preserving local history was remarkable. John will be sorely missed by the Bonegilla community.

HILLIER, John "Mr Rail Trail". - The Rail Trail working groups extend deepest sympathy to Joy and the family. John will always be remembered as a visionary and a tireless worker for the development of the High Country Rail Trail. His expertise, his attention to detail and his vast knowledge and interest in the history of the track has been invaluable. We miss him.

HILLIER, Nathaniel Rickards John (Col Ret). - Of Baranduda passed away peacefully with Joy by his side on September 19, 2013 at Westmont Homestead, aged 85 years. Dearly loved husband of Joy for 61 years. Loved father and father-in-law of Chris and Liz, Ken, Russell and Melissa. Treasured 'Parp' of Hayden, Kada, Gracie and Alice. Adored Great Grandfather of Marcus and baby brother to come. Friends to many.

A private family service was held for John in Albury on Friday September 27, 2013.

HILLIER, Nathaniel Rickards John. - Loved and respected family friend of the Miles, Lee and Taylor families.

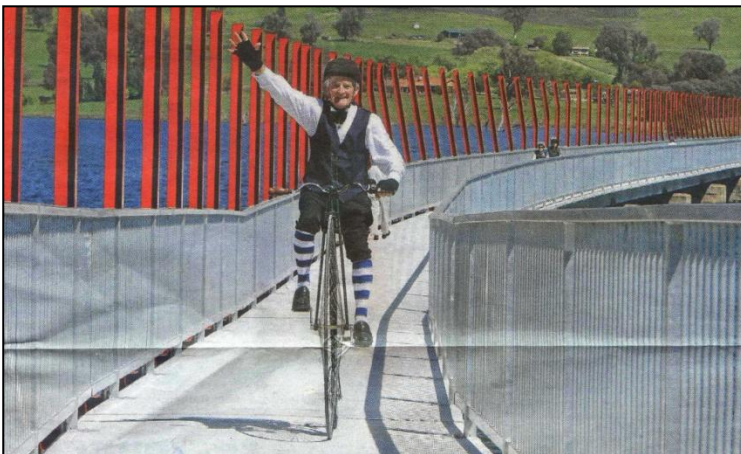
Sadly missed, now at peace. Sympathy to Joy and family.

Mr Rail Trail – alias NRJ (John) Hillier

The Border Mail (Albury/Wodonga) reports....For most who went to the opening of the Sandy Creek Bridge, it was just a nice day to go for a ride. For John Hillier it was the culmination of more than a decade's hard work. John is known as 'Mr Rail Trail', a name well founded given there probably wouldn't have been a celebration at the weekend if it hadn't have been for John and a few others lobbying the government. Asked where he got the nickname, the 84 year old couldn't remember but the Border Mail records say former Victorian Premier John Brumby and former Wodonga Mayor Lisa Mahood called him this when a \$1.3 million promise came from Labor in 2006. John comments it wasn't a campaign he ever planned to be involved in. Retiring to Ebden in 1997 with wife Joy after a long career in the Army Mr Hillier said he simply needed something to do. "I thought to myself. Well John, you've got to do something; if you sit on your backside you'll die". So he became chairman of the Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Committee in 2001.



There were others who worked towards the rail trail but he as tirelessly as John Hillier



A happy cyclist opens the bridge on his 'penny-farthing'

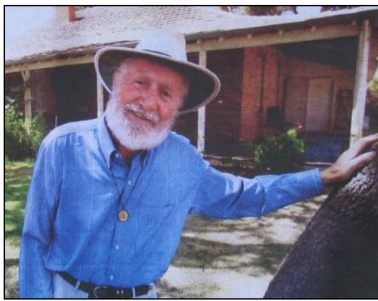
Saturday had been a long time coming but Mr Hillier preferred not to reminisce about the past. Maybe the fight had been so long or maybe it was just because the bridge was nothing new to him – he had his wife Joy drive him there more times than he could count so he could 'check things out'. Mrs Hillier agreed the rail trail had become a slight obsession for her husband but said he was a man that had to see things through.

Founder of the Rail Trail Advisory group Mr Mike Hamlin died two years ago. Mr Hamlin is remembered to have said that a chair should be erected at a particular spot on the trail with a view overlooking the hills, the water and the weir wall.

Sitting on a bench built in his friend's honour Mr Hillier pointed to the bridge they had worked tirelessly towards for so many years. "Look there" he said. "That's quite something".

Gerald Aloysius Warber

53136 Gerry Warber passed away in Oct. He served from Sep 56 to Apr 77. Gerry was a member of the lost generation – aboriginal children removed from their parents and raised in Government Hostels. After his mother died of tuberculosis the authorities of the day sent him to what was called Children's Cottage Home in 1934 where he stayed until he was 17. Howard Jones recalls working with Jerry and has commented "*I worked with Jerry for a year; absolutely a competent top notch Litho technician*". The front page of the *West Australian* newspaper featured an article on Jerry under the heading 'No time for sorry as the stolen make their own way' and with the caption: **'Going back'**: *Gerry Warber is a member*



of the Stolen Generation but doesn't care about an apology. He is part of a group involved in a \$9 million deal to buy the old Sister Kate's home in Queens Park, a place where he spent much of his childhood. The group plans an aged care facility and healing centre'.

In the accompanying article Jerry acknowledged his indifference to compensation was largely due to his good treatment compared to that of other Aboriginal children taken from their parents. He said that though he never experienced abuse, there was a lack of acknowledgement of the trauma of being separated from family. He said that the first time he knew he had a father was when he was told that the man had died. Jerry was 13 at the time and remembered being discouraged from attending the funeral. He later found out as an adult that his father had tried to visit him at Sister Kate's but was turned away at the gate.

Brian Mead comments - Jerry Warber served in RA Survey for 20 years and worked in Litho Squadron prior to finishing his service with 5 Field Survey Squadron in the early 1970s *My own first memory of Gerry Warber was as an 18 year old Sapper at Fortuna in 1966. Back in those days reveille took place at about 6 am in the OR's Barracks, with room inspections conducted about half an hour after breakfast. I was woken on this particular day by a Sgt (Gerry Warber) wearing a kilt and playing the bagpipes – in step to the music of course. Gerry left Bendigo and was posted to Western Australia. Gerry made a solid contribution to the Squadron's technical output during his six year posting. Squadron Records show SGT GA Warber marched In 8 Nov 1971 and marched Out / Discharged on 6 Apr 1977. Brian believes that Gerry could well have been the first Litho tradesman employed in the WA Sqn*

Thanks for the Memories.....Peter Bowen

After 17 ½ years with the National Native Title Tribunal and 44 years overall in the public sector I'm moving to my next phase of life – retirement. That is, retirement from the workforce - not life!

During my career I've been fortunate to have been able to build quality teams of 'spatial science' professionals along the way and to share my vision to focus on the management of the information required (what I have



Associate Professor Maureen Tehan (left), Justice Tony North, Tribunal Geospatial Services Manager Peter Bowen and Professor Lee Godden at the book launch at Melbourne Law School.

labelled 'custodianship') and to use technologies to improve processes – not to drive processes. Putting 'Geospatial' into native title – mapping – has certainly made the process easier to understand and the fact that native title outcomes are slowly but surely being recorded and incorporated into State Land Registers is testament to our persistence.

Reflecting on some of the legacies that will remain, clearly Native Title Vision stands out and continues to service a growing audience with the products offered now recognised by industry. Geometrics of native title has continued to be a topic of interest, especially with the media. Size and location is important in native title.

The delivery of quality assistance to claimants and others, together with geospatial compliance, remains part of the fundamental services being provided. We have come a long way in the provision of mapping and technical descriptions, giving leadership to States, Territories and Aboriginal and Torres Strait bodies in achieving 'reasonable certainty' of what areas are subject to claim and/or subject to agreement..

Nationally, we have also achieved much - such as raising the importance of land tenure as a fundamental information layer. We have pursued the development of the National Land Tenure Dataset being undertaken by public sector mapping agencies As a component of the land tenure proposal we put forward to the Australia New

Zealand Land Information Council subsets of this dataset and plan to deliver the Indigenous Australian Estate and a Commonwealth lands inventory – which has been on the agenda for decades!

A significant personal milestone in native title was participation in the Spear Creek mediation near Port Augusta, South Australia. We were involved from the commencement and able to contribute geospatial knowledge and skills that assisted in the resolution of a multitude of claim overlaps.

I've enjoyed my participation and contribution to the spatial industry at state, national and international levels. For the last six months I've been on leave, supervising the supervisor of our new home build, and this has been a great transition to retirement – and a recommended approach.

(Ed: Peter is an Honorary Fellow of the Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia)

SAILING ADVENTURES!!!..... Peter and Dell Osterhage

Christmas Eve 2004, we became the owners of a 38 steel sailing sloop named Pacific Express. We had never sailed before but it seemed like a good idea at the time! The day we decided to take her out on our own, we started the motor and just sat there looking at each other trying to get up the courage to do it. Two hours later we thought we just have to do this – so we did. Backed her out and went the completely opposite way to where we wanted to go. This was our first experience of prop walk – we had no idea. Have no recollection of where we went or what we did but remember coming back into the marina. We came in a bit hard and scraped the side but other than that it was perfect and we thought we were pretty clever. The next time we went out we took some family and gave them all a job as we came into the berth. This was a big mistake and we ended up clipping the boat next to us – our first drama. Little did we know there would be many more to come. For the next few years we got as much experience as we could sailing Moreton Bay and did a few courses – Sea survival, Marine FirstAid, radio operator, diesel maintenance etc.

It was our intention to sail to exotic places overseas so between April and November 2008 we sailed from Brisbane to Lizard Island (north of Cooktown) and return to gain more sailing and navigation experience and get our provisioning, water and garbage management under control and safety systems etc bedded down. It also provided us with the knowledge of what needed to be on the boat and what didn't.

Well all this learning had to lead somewhere so on 24 April 2009 we departed Brisbane – destination Darwin and beyond. Sailing the Queensland coast and the Top End was fantastic until we got to Port Essington east of Darwin, some three days sail away. Our electronic chart plotter died. So it was out with the paper charts and back to basic survey skills. We made it successfully to Cape Don but to negotiate the Clarence Strait between the Cobourg Peninsula and Melville Island meant leaving our anchorage in the dark at 4am. The currents in this channel are fierce and if not timed correctly you could end up going backwards even under motor at full throttle. A bit disorienting and daunting but made it through and the next day left at 2am to go through the narrow channel between the Vernon islands fringed with loads of reefs into Darwin. Finally got the chart plotter replaced the day before we left Darwin for Saumlaki in Indonesia on 18 July 2009 in company with over 100 other yachts. The welcome from the people of Saumlaki was incredible. We were loaded on a bus with police escort front and back sirens blaring and escorted to various villages to be shown the most amazing hospitality. This feeling of welcome continued for the entire duration of our journey through the islands of Indonesia. An absolute highlight was going up the Kumai River by Klotok for three days and two nights to visit the orangutan rehabilitation centre where I was amazed to have my hand taken by a very friendly orangutan named Samson. We also witnessed a game of fire football – soccer played at night with a flaming coconut!! (dipped in kero) The dragons of Komodo, swimming with the manta rays at Gili Lawa Laut, snorkeling channels and coral, amazing fish, marching with the locals on independence day, wonderful food, volcanoes, waterfalls and secluded anchorages watching amazing sunrises and sunsets. Cruising in company with one other yacht through some of the remotest parts of Indonesia was indescribable, the people fantastic and scenery and snorkeling, unbelievable. It took us three wonderful months to traverse Indonesia and then we ran the gauntlet crossing the incredible channel of cargo ships towards Singapore which brought us to the more westernised Malaysia.

We cruised the Malacca Strait visiting wonderful islands along the way and the more busy towns of Malacca, Port Dixon, Port Klang (an extremely busy port) Georgetown (Penang) and on to the island of Langkawi 20 miles from the Thailand border. Langkawi became our “home” port as we plied between Thailand and Malaysia as visa requirements dictated.

2010 saw us cruising the west coast of Thailand, visiting many islands with loads of tourists and out of the way places with few tourists. The food was fabulous and of course cheap. After Christmas it was time to explore the many delights of Phang Na Bay – so many places to visit including Phi Phi Lae which was featured in the

Leonardo de Caprio movie, The Beach. We took advantage of the close proximity and backpacked for eight weeks through northern Thailand, the length of Laos and through Cambodia.

In 2011 we travelled back down the Malacca Straits and up the east coast of Malaysia before crossing the South China Sea to Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah in the northern coast of Borneo. We took Pacific Express up the Kinabatangan River and saw pigmy elephants, proboscis monkeys and a couple of wild orangutans. Fantastic experience but we were quite shocked at the amount of jungle that has been cleared to make way for oil palm plantations. 2012 was the year we cruised in the Philippines where we circumnavigated Palawan Island. An extremely poor country but the people were just unbelievable and the scenery made you think you were in paradise somewhere in the South Pacific. We finally left Sarawak in Borneo on 10 July by ourselves to make the long journey back to Australia via Sulawesi and the eastern archipelago of Indonesia into Gove in the Northern Territory.

Whilst crossing the Celebes sea (a 3 day 2 night non-stop sail) we came across our Bermuda Triangle. At sunset on the second day we were sitting on the deck having sundowners with the yacht on auto pilot and under motor with no wind and flat seas when suddenly the yacht lurched to port. I went to check what had happened and the auto pilot was jammed fully to port. The chart plotter showed that we were travelling on a bearing 180 degrees opposite to the course we were actually headed on. (Bloody chart plotter) and hence it tried to get the auto pilot to steer that course. Dell took over manual steering whilst keeping the red glow of the setting sun at her back and later the rising moon in front of her whilst I tried to investigate what was wrong. I cranked up the computer (backup # 1) which had a backup chart plotter on it but the GPS connected to it wouldn't work. So out with the hand held GPS to fix our position and calculate a heading to get to Sulawesi (backup # 2). The hand held GPS put us at a position of 10 degrees north in the Philippines when we were actually at 2 degrees north. We knew that if we kept steering our current course we should hit land somewhere late the next day. Then suddenly, after about 2 hours, all the electronics came back to normal, much to our relief. Travelling across a sea, 5000 metres deep, a day and night from the nearest land, without navigation equipment can be quite scary. We had a sextant with us but no up-to-date tables. Our daughter in Tasmania did some research after we contacted her via HF radio enabled email and she found out that in a certain area in the Celebes basin, between 4000 and 5000 metres deep, tectonic plates move apart which create massive magnetic anomalies. Our Celebes Triangle.

Our last leg from Tual in Indonesia to Gove was a 4 day 3 night non-stop sail across the Arafura Sea. We had to wait for a weather window and eventually one opened. We had to leave Tual on the Sunday morning and make Gove by Thursday morning as the weather window then closed. There was no wind and flat seas so we had to motor nearly the whole way. Unfortunately we picked up dirty diesel in Tual and with the engine conking out every 4 hours we went through seven primary fuel filters and four fine filters (down to only one spare left) by the time the fuel was clean enough for the engine to run smoothly. All was fine until we approached the top end of the Wessel Island chain. The wind came up so off with the motor and a leisurely sail until the wind dropped to nothing again. On with the motor but the sea water pump for the engine heat exchanger wouldn't work. Luckily the wind came up again so Dell sailed for 3 hours till sunset whilst I tried to find out what the problem with the pump was. At sunset the wind dropped to nothing and the current was pushing us back to the Wessel Islands some 20 miles away. Dropped anchor at sea in 42 metres 52 miles from Gove. The next morning a light breeze allowed us to sail on a tack towards Gove without a motor for backup when 8 miles from Gove harbour the wind changed direction and picked up to 30-40 knots with huge seas. It was Thursday evening and the weather window had obviously closed as predicted. Must say that the last few miles were not very pleasant. It was so bad that after nearly four years of sailing SE Asia, Dell was about to resign. We finally left Gove 28 October 2012 after two weeks sourcing a new water pump and arrived back in Brisbane on 9 December.

Our experience is that 95% of cruising in a yacht is just sheer brilliance, something which cannot be compared. 4% is exhilarating. (our definition of exhilarating is sheer terror for a short time). And the other 1% could be classified as terror. Are we ready to do it again? –Too right

You can view our adventures at www.dellandpeter.com; pacific.express@hotmail.com



FROM THE OTHER STATE ASSOCIATIONS (since last reported)

**ACT - Newsletter
May 2013**

- Coalition commitment to fair indexing of military pensions and ADSO response.
- Mount Spec Shield Tree.
- Fortuna Villa sold.
- RA Svy Nominal Roll – 4th draft.

- Tall tales but true – Op Mizmaze by Greg Tolcher.
- Vale: Des Moore, Wal Mooney.
- Photo gallery.

October 2013

- Corps Birthday at Kingston.
- 100th Anniversary RA Svy.
- NRJ Hillier letter – Corps mapping history.
- Bill Forrest honour.
- Tall Tales but True – The Popenetta Ball by Gary (Blue) Hunter.
- Vale – Percy Long, George Graham, John Hillier.
- Mount Spec; Mount Finnigan – Sam Chambers.

November 2013

- Hiran Nandan helicopter crash.
- Report incorrectly links Cenderawasih with genocide.
- Faces of the Corps presentation.
- RA Survey Corps' Colonel in Chief – HRH the Princess of Wales.
- AWM Roll of Honour.
- Balcombe Barracks Commemoration.
- Vale – Gerry Warber.

South Australia - Newsletter

March 2013

- Anzac Day 2013
- Fishing on the Darling River – George Timmins.
- Touring the Queens Highway – Roger Rees.
- Invitation to visit – Pam and John Harrison.
- Vale – Wally Mooney, Percy Long, George Graham.
- Anzac Day Reunion.
- AGM.
- Corps Birthday function 2013.
- Why are there 24 hours in a day – blame it on the Egyptians.
- Balcombe Barracks Commemoration.

Victoria – Magna Carto

April 2013.

- Fortuna Villa sells at auction.
- Vale:Des Moore, Phil Boyle, John Cattell.
- Last Hurrah for Balcombe.
- Not a plane table but what?
- Mick Flynn turns eighty.
- Survey Corps badges.
- Anzac Day – 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF
- Melbourne Survey Reunion.
- Retirements – Phil Smalley, Noel Macnamara, Ian Belmont, Lance Hillier, Tracy & John Phillips, Harald May, Bob Garritty, Anne Greenwood.
- 2013 Anzac Day – Bendigo

Western Australia – Westlink

December 2011

- Letter to Editor from Peter Presser
- Vale: Corporal Ashley Birt, Frank Cohen – great photos.
- A Nation's Pilgrimage – Anzac Day 2011.
- A Special Place – Araluen by Bob Skitch.
- Non-recognition at AWM – 4 Field Survey Coy AIF
- Anzac day – Perth 2011.

- Annual Reunion – 26 June 2011 – great photos.
- 'Thanks Harry' (Harry Webb) by Chris Dixon – Gallipoli.

NSW – Newsletter

July 2013 (sent Dec 2013)

- Anzac day 2013 – many photos.
- Centennial Celebrations – Bendigo, Canberra
- Fire at Springwood and Winmalee – Lower Blue Mountains (see below)

FIRE AT SPRINGWOOD...Richard Jackson-Hope (from NSW Association Newsletter



Richard writes.....

Sorry for the delay in getting this Newsletter out; I was waiting on some other articles to include which for one reason or another never eventuated. Plus it has been a bit hectic of late in the mountains. At this time last year I was helping rescue stranded motorists in the snow in the upper mountains this year it was bush fires in the lower mountains.

Photograph on left is of approaching 100+ k per hour fire in our back yard and on the right next door house burning down. Three houses next to us all burnt down within 20 minutes and joined the toll of 212 houses burnt down in this fire with another 190 damaged.)

If I had not changed the hard drive in the laptop computer six weeks prior to the fires there would not be an ANZAC Day newsletter. As luck would have it the old hard drive survived the fire in the (Man Shed) in the computer bag stuffed under the desk and the information on the drive was saved to the new computer.

Lesson for all: do not keep backup devices in the same location as the main computer.

Hope to see you all on the 25th April 2014 at our usual meeting spot. Wishing you and your families a **Happy Christmas and may the New Year be a good one for all.**

Richard Jackson-Hope OAM

KILCOY REUNION & AGM



President Alex admires the wine choice



The 'Top Table' – Denis Gregor, Ross Smithwick, Alex Cairney, Greg Knight



(left) Jim Beard, (right) Grant Small, Dick Small, Col Moorhead.



(left) Peter & Barbara Bates-Brownsword, (right), Stan Stevens, Al & Diana Kavanagh, Barry Lutwyche. Ken Kuhn (RSL Patron)



(left) Ken Kuhn (RSL Patron. Barbara & Peter Bates-Brownsword, Alan Kavanagh, (right) Barry Lutwyche.



(left) Ted Van Ginnekin, Hank Opdem, (right) ?? Ian Fitzgerald, Peter Cross