



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

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

ANZAC EDITION – No 56

APRIL 2014

**CALENDER 2014**

**25 April – Anzac Day** – Dawn service at Enoggera 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.

**ANZAC DAY**

Join your mates for our Anzac Day celebration on Friday 25 April. Again we start with the **Dawn Service** at 0500h at Enoggera this year and probably for the last time at the new RAE memorial – enter from Wanimo St. President Alex is to place the Association wreath. A separate service may be held at I Topo. (see special notice below).

**City March:** WW2 veterans will march ‘in block’ at the front with those who cannot march following in busses or vehicles. The City parade commences at **1000h** with the Army leading, then Navy and Air Force. We are positioned immediately after the RAE Aust Water Tpt Assn and before the RASigs Assn. FUP is in George St. between Charlotte and Elizabeth Streets. Keep an eye open for our distinctive Banner. President Alex Cairney will lead the Survey contingent in a wheel chair pushed by fit and able Barry Lutwyche. This year and maybe here-after the great theodolite will be carried by a fit young member of 1Topo in the usual regimental manner immediately behind our leader and in front of the Banner – also carried by stalwarts from the Topographical Squadron.

Post-march reunion is confirmed as being at the Alderley Arms Hotel with finger food/snacks being provided (funded by the Association). The bar opens at 1300h. Alderley railway station is very close by and the Council bus route goes past the hotel. Ample parking is available at the rear of the hotel. (enter the hotel from the car park) 1 Topo Svy Sqn members are particularly welcome.

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

**March Protocol** – Refer back to Bulletin 41 (Mar 2010) to refresh on March protocol.

**Berets:** Don't forget to wear your Association purple beret.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON** is no longer a Royal Australian Engineers unit. On 20 January this year command of the Squadron went from 6 Engineer Support Regiment to 1 Intelligence Battalion. 1 Int Bn has four companies, named 1 through 4 each of about 40 personnel. ! Topo is referred to by INT as 5 Coy, however its title remains 1 Topo Svy Sqn until Army Headquarters decides otherwise. 1 Topo makes up half the strength of the Battalion. For the moment they retain the Engineer hat badge and the 1 Topo colour patch but wear the 1 Int Bn shoulder patch. They are required to close the Murray Bar but they are fighting that one. Sappers remain sappers for the time being. There are many unanswered questions to be resolved. ....More in the next Bulletin.....**Ed**

## COMMITTEE

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**Note:** Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Barry Lutwyche

## NOTICES

### POST OUT OF BULLETIN

Our post-out by email continues with only about twenty members requiring hard copy. Keep in mind if you require hard copy let Secretary Greg know and hard copy will be sent.

**RA SURVEY HISTORY by Dr Chris Coulthard Clark** – copies are still available. Contact Secretary Greg Knight for details.

### 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.

### 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 Secretary 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.

### 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).

## MEMBERSHIP

Keep your membership alive. Paid-up status for Ordinary Members terminates with the AGM on the first Saturday in September. Annual subscription is \$15.00 per year. We suggest that paying three or more years in advance is a good idea.

## DEREK CHAMBERS and CPL ASHLEY BIRT AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The Derek Chambers Award presentation took place at the Murray Bar of 1st Topographical Survey Squadron on Thursday 5 December 2013. OC, Major Steve Wright extended a warm invitation to our Association members to attend and inaugural event.

Unfortunately very few of our members were able to make it this year – in attendance from our Association were Barrie Craymer, Greg Knight, Barry Lutwyche and Rock Thiselton.



Cpl Terry Tucker at our honour board

The recipient of the Derek Chambers award was **Cpl Terry Tucker** who is a Multimedia Technician (this trade was formerly Illustrator Reprographic). Cpl Tucker was also the recipient in 2012 so the award this year was a \$60 book voucher rather than another book and plaque. Our Secretary, Greg Knight did the honours and presented the award on behalf of the Association in a fairly brief but most sterling manner.

This year it was a very special occasion because it was the inaugural year of the **Cpl Ash Burt Leadership Award**. I'm sure you recall that Cpl Burt was the Geospatial Technician who was KIA in Afghanistan 29 October 2011. **Cpl Stephen Neate** was this award recipient. (Hopefully a photo in our next Bulletin)

Major Wright has provided the following brief on both awards.....

### CPL Ashley Birt Leadership Award

The annual CPL Ashley Birt Leadership Award is dedicated to the memory of CPL Birt who was killed in action on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan on 29 October 2011. The purpose of this award is to recognise annually, a JNCO within 1 Topo Svy Sqn, 6 ESR that, like CPL Birt, has sought responsibility, shown leadership and achieved success.

### CPL Neate

Cpl Neate has provided excellent leadership this year in every role he has undertaken. From the office tasks of data management, to the role of detachment IC on deployment, he has been professional in every aspect of his work.

Cpl Neate has shown a strong belief in the army culture of building a team, and supporting every member of the team. He has provided sound technical advice to subordinates and superiors alike, and has gone out of his way to resolve weaknesses in subordinates. He has volunteered for unwanted tasks, even when it was to the detriment of himself and his family, always putting the Army needs above his own desires.

Throughout 2013, CPL Neate has set himself high standards to achieve in every facet of his soldiering, and he has consistently met that standard. He is a role model to everyone in his workplace.

### Derek Chambers Award

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association Queensland Branch passed a resolution to honour the memory of Derek Chambers by offering to the 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Squadron a prize in the form of a book voucher to be

awarded to a young soldier (Sapper, Corporal or recently promoted Sergeant) who has made the most significant contribution to the *esprit de corps* of the Squadron during the preceding 12 months

### **Cpl Terry Tucker**

Cpl Tucker has shown outstanding qualities of leadership, and promotion of esprit de corps throughout the year. His enthusiasm for social activities is infectious, and has been the catalyst for the RTF bar and social members pouring their energies into their duties to ensure the unit enjoys a strong social environment. He has also conducted many PT sessions throughout the year, where he has gone out of his way to ensure that the variety in training ensures that the target objectives are met, whilst keeping the activity interesting for the participants. Cpl Tucker volunteered to manage the unit soccer team throughout the season, generating strong support from his players.

Cpl Tucker's constant good humour, willingness to volunteer for any task at hand, and his common sense solutions to problems have been an example for others to follow. CPL Tucker won this award in 2012, and has set and maintained even higher standards of leadership in 2013.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE REFUSAL TO ISSUE ENTITLEMENTS TO, WITHHOLDING AND FORFEITURE OF DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS.**

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (the tribunal) has been directed to inquire into and report on the refusal to issue entitlements to, withholding and forfeiture of Defence honours and awards for service within the Australian defence forces since 1939.

Specifically the Tribunal is to:

- Identify the legal provisions applicable to the refusal issue entitlements to, withholding and forfeiture of Defence honours and awards,
- Investigated the approaches adopted over time by the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force and the department of Defence in respect of the refusal issue entitlements to, withholding and forfeiture of such Defence honours and awards,
- Determine whether those approaches were consistent with the legal provisions, and
- Present the Government any recommendations that the Tribunal considers appropriate to correct any injustice arising from an improper refusal to issue an entitlement to, withholding and forfeiture of such Defence honours and awards.

The Tribunal is to receive submissions from individuals or representatives of individuals who may have been affected by policies related to withholding and forfeiture of such Defence honours and awards, however the tribunal is not directed through the inquiry to review and report on individual cases. These will be a matter for the Department of Defence and potentially for the Tribunal to consider after the Tribunal's inquiry is complete.

The Tribunal is to determine its own procedures in accordance with the general principles of procedural fairness. when conducting its inquiry as set out in the terms of reference.

In making its findings and formulating its recommendations the Inquiry is required to maintain the integrity of the Australian honours and awards system and identify any consequential impact that any finding or recommendation may have on that system.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make a submission to the Tribunal in accordance with the Terms of Reference by Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013.(Ed – do they mean February 2014?)

**ED: this would surely represent a classic piece of government 'gobble-de-goop'. The Courier Mail gives its version below...**

The *Courier Mail* reported on January 11 2014 with the headline 'Probe of Award Errors'.... Defence Force personnel who have been improperly denied honours and awards will be the focus of a new national investigation. The Abbott Government has tasked the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to conduct a full inquiry into '*refusal, withheld and forfeited*' honours and awards.

Parliamentary secretary for Defence Darren Chester says the tribunal will examine the period from the beginning of World War II to the present.Recent work of the Tribunal has indicated that many of the decisions taken to withhold the medallic entitlements of veterans who served in the second world war

and later conflicts were of doubtful legal validity Mr Chester said. *"I expect the tribunal to report on the correct way to correct injustices"*. Submissions to the inquiry close on 28 February.

## **A CHANCE MEETING**

**Ed:** Those who served at Fortuna in 1978-80 may remember our US Exchange Officer Major Sam Schwartz. Sam was a very personable fellow and was well regarded by all, especially in Litho Squadron where Sam mostly served. Sam and Lisa were great participants in all of the Regiment's activities.

Sam and Lisa had two chance meetings with past Corps and past Regiment members, Simon Lemon some time back and Graeme Baker more recently. Sam and/or Lisa emailed....

### **From Lisa and Sam Schwartz – 31 Dec 13**

GoodDay!!.....We just returned from a wonderful 2 week trip on a cruise ship, from Sydney all along the east coast of New Zealand. Absolutely loved it. Sitting at open seating one night at dinner, I asked the gent on my left what he did, and he said, "I was in the Australian Army for 22 years". I asked, what corps, he said Survey, I asked Fortuna, and he said ...of course. He must have left the year before we arrived. His name was Graeme Baker. He was just one of the many 'it's a small world' encounters that we had on the ship. We spent one night in Sydney before boarding the ship on 8/12/13....then left the ship on 22/12/13 directly to the airport for our trip home. We knew we didn't really have time to attempt to see anyone and couldn't be sure if we would have been able to stay awake if we had made plans, so we didn't, and of course now have regrets. But at least I again have an ear to tell an Aussie from a Kiwi and a Brit!!

Our children Jana and Troy are still living in Boston, working way too hard but loving what they do, which is basically research for government contracts in numerous fields. They are happy...and we can't ask for anything more than that. We are doing really well – age is just a number, and I have determined that I am a total failure at retirement. My latest job was working for Cavalia (like Cirque du Soleil, only with horses). I know the original show is now touring in Australia. Sam's green thumbs keep improving, and he has a house full of flowering things all year long. Thinking of you often with great memories.....Lisa and Sam

### **Graham Baker also emailed....**

Bob and Don.....Hook Joo and I have just returned from a 2-week cruise around New Zealand. One evening, at dinner, we found ourselves seated with a nice couple from Maryland, USA - Sam and Lisa Schwartz. As we talked, it emerged that Sam had been the US exchange officer at Fortuna around 1980 (I think). He succeeded Sam Thompson. We had a great evening reminiscing about common friends and acquaintances. They asked me to pass on their best wishes - from 'The Yanks'  
Regards,.....Graham Baker

### **Again from Sam and Lisa Schwartz**

We received your note with the December edition of the RA Survey Queensland Association Bulletin attached. Thank you so much for sending us a copy. I was pleased to see so many familiar names and places and reading it brought back some wonderful memories. I can appreciate how much effort and commitment it requires producing such a document.

I had a wonderful surprise at my Army Retirement Ceremony (at the then Defense Mapping Agency in Maryland) meeting with Colonel Simon Lemon's visit to the Command. From what we learned on the cruise, Bendigo would be very difficult for Lisa and me to recognize. It has grown well beyond the country town size we knew and a quick look on Google Maps confirms the extent of the growth we were told about. We even found a street view image of our former married quarters and it still seems unchanged. The hydrangea bushes in the front have taken prominence in the yard. Finding Fortuna was a bit more of a challenge. I just hope that the upbeat gold seekers' attitude still remains in the area.

It is wonderful to have been able to stay in touch with Wendy and you these past thirty four plus years and hope to continue for at least another thirty four! We hope that 2014 is a year of good health and happiness for all of us.....Lisa and Sam Schwartz

**Ed:** we sent Sam and Lisa the video of a walk through Fortuna produced by the ABC following the sale. Lisa's hobby (perhaps occupation) is lead-lighted stained glass. Her website is <http://www.flickr.com/photos/amityvillain/sets>. Scan to the bottom panel to see examples.

## PERSONALIA and other jottings

### Bryan Wilson

On the odd occasion one catches up with an old Corps colleague – yes 'old' in both senses; we are



heading that way – and this happened to me recently. Bryan Wilson came into RA Svy in 1961 and served for six years in the then Northern Command Field Survey Unit in Brisbane. At that time the OC was Major Spencer Snow, followed by Jim Stedman. Bryan was a fresh young sapper straight off basic course and I was a freshly commissioned lieutenant trying to find my feet under a particularly irascible OC. Bryan says that he was initially interviewed by Major Snow pre-enlistment in the company of his protective father – I recall that happening to a few other young Corps enlistees. On Bryan's Basic Course, 19/61, there were a few Corps identities that many might recall; Bob Bartlett, Bill Boyd, Phil Eastern, Bob Woods and others of course.

In the unit at the time was Tony Jones, a corporal I think, an Englishman and quite an unforgettable character. Tony died on the 19<sup>th</sup> January last year. A short obituary is in this Bulletin.

Bryan served on a number of field survey operations, in just about every year of his six year service. Charters Towers EDM traversing and mapping in 1962, Operation 'Blowdown' – in 1962 and 63 (Bryan with Jim Clarke returned to the Iron Range site of 'Blowdown' to measure the extent of destruction and actually witnessed the 'big bang'. (Blowdown is reported in detail in Bull 51). In '64 Bryan was on the Bourke – Charleville EDM traverse and 1:250,000 mapping based at St George. In 1965 he was detached with Ross McMillan and Grant Small to the Regiment for EDM traversing in PNG and in '66 annotation and field completion west of Roma. Somewhere in that period there was the 1:100,000 mapping of Shoalwater Bay, to become a major military training area. Bryan spent his final couple of months at the Enoggera personnel depot where he recalls doing piquet duties almost nightly (perhaps for his sin in forsaking the Corps). He recalls being involved in the processing of national servicemen and wounded soldiers from Vietnam for discharge; collecting drunken fighting soldiers from the canteen charged by the duty officer often having to use his own car since army vehicles were in short supply.

Bryan married June in Ipswich in 1965 – we used to call him 'the boy from Ippy' – and our OC Jim Stedman suggested I get a carload of unit members together to attend the wedding. This duly happened but I can't recall who went. Having left the army Bryan joined the Survey Office of the Lands Department for 18 months working in photogrammetry and mapping under Keith Waller and Wardley West (WW2 Survey Corps) but tiring of that and the slow pace of the public service he joined Australian Aerial Mapping and his boss was Keith Barrie, another WW2 Survey Corps digger. He also worked for

Wilde Survey Instruments in Brisbane as a sales representative staying with them for two and a half years.

And then Bryan's post Survey Corps career kicked off in mine surveying working at Moura in both underground and open cut mining for six years. Coming from Ipswich mining was in his blood from early days. He became a Registered Mine Surveyor but then took a job with the Gold Coast City Council in sewerage maintenance. He returned to mine surveying in his home town of Ipswich at the New Hope and Swanbank mines also doing six months at the coal face as a true miner; then to Oakey Creek Coal (near Emerald). This was followed by a period on road surveying, initially with Main Roads in Rockhampton and then in Papua New Guinea. Bryan continued for a while as a 'freelance' surveyor then set up his own business – B.E. Surveys, registered as 'Mining and Engineering Survey Services' in 1992, employing five or six assistants. The firm continued to 2006 when Bryan more or less retired. Bryan tells me his work ethic is to treat people with dignity and respect which he has always applied to his employees and work associates. Bryan continues as a freelance surveyor with an interest in mentoring young surveyors.

Bryan and June live at Yeppoon in central coastal Queensland. They had a family of three, a girl and two boys all living and working close to Yeppoon. Bryan is now a healthy looking 70 year old.

**Ed:** There are photos of Brian's early days in the Corps at the back of this Bulletin

**Barry Harms:** I received this email from a past Corps member of the early 1960s. It reads..  
*'My name is Barry Harms I spent time at FORTUNA in 1960 (Topographic Squadron). We went up to Northern Territory and North Queensland to carry out the Tellurometer traverse from Mount Isa to Borroloola. We drove up through central Australia from Bendigo to Camooweal where we had our base camp for a few months. Then on to Georgetown stayed a few more months doing 1:250,000 map control and aerial annotation. Major Jim Stedman was our OC, Captain Clem Sergeant caught up with us at Georgetown to do reconnaissance on the Northern Cape for 1960. I remember WO1 Des Moore RSM from Fortuna, Sgt Norm Vaughn, Sgt Bob Skitch, Cpl Billy Hills, Sprs Don Cocker, Denis Woods, Tommy Royal and many more. That was quiet an experience.*

*I left Fortuna, and went to Western Command Field Survey Section located in Artillery Barracks. Fremantle WA, and remained there for a number of years. We had Major Bill Sprenger as OC and Captains John Bullen, Alec Laing, Hugh Taylor. Others I remember are Father Jim Booton, Bob Mckenna, Noel Clutterbuck, Bob Caswell, Dave O'Hara, and many more. We did an intensive survey of the Nullarbor Plain, put in horizontal control, and heights for 1:250,000 mapping.*

*I have been getting emails from Brian Mead, who has been keeping me up to date with what is going on. Anyway good to catch up with you, and a Happy New Year to you and your family'.*

Regards...Barry Harms

**Des Ceruti** visited Brisbane recently from New Zealand. Unfortunately I had only a brief chat with him by phone while he was staying at Maroochydore (I was at Caloundra). He was departing the following morning for all points south visiting family, however, he was able to call on Stan Campbell and swap experiences. We served in Vietnam together 1966/67. Des has had quite a battle with cancer of the bowel which might not have been so bad had he not been victim of medical mismanagement that led to peritonitis and nearly took his life. Des is well now but a little weakened by the experience.

**Gary (Blue) Hunter (The 'intrepid')** After spending a year in Kabul and surrounds in Afghanistan on land reform for USAID Gary has taken up a similar assignment in Nigeria. He emails...*Hi everyone, I've just started a job in Nigeria and I've attached my first newsletter for you to read.*

*Feel free to contact me....Regards Gary (Dr Gary J. Hunter E-mail. [garyhnr@gmail.com](mailto:garyhnr@gmail.com))*

Gary has only a couple of weeks to go in Nigeria and then he moves to Zimbabwe.

**Ed:** We have now received six Newsletters from Gary in Nigeria with great photos. They make interesting and amusing reading. Gary has given me permission to email them to any Association member who may be interested. I asked Gary to explain the system of registering title in Nigeria. He replied...

*"The parcel coordinates are plotted to give us a parcel outline which is then overlaid on imagery which shows the buildings etc, but we don't show the coordinates on the final Certificate of Occupancy. However, the issue of showing the coordinates has been raised by the various State Surveyors-General here, and that matter has yet to be resolved".*

Gary has also agreed to my publishing his Newsletter (4) with selected photographs in this Bulletin.

**Dave Carney (from Canada):** *Dave was our Canadian Exchange Officer at the Regiment and then 4 Field Survey Squadron from 1973 to 1975. He served on Operation Sea King in PNG with George Ricketts and many others. His story of Sea King – the lighter side – is in our Bulletin No 45, June 2011. Dave has made at least one re-visit to Australia connecting again with many past and old friends (well – they are old now; that was 40 years ago). From Dave's address block you can see that he has risen to the dizzy heights of his profession. Dave still considers Sea King to be one of the high-lights of his career. To our Canuk friends Papua New Guinea must seem the least likely places in the world they could be thrust into.*

*I received the following email from Dave recently.....*

Hi Bob. Hope you are well. A couple of months ago I was asked to give a short talk about my time in PNG with RA Svy. The slide show was captured and put on youtube so I am passing that along to you. You might find it interesting, although after 30 or more years there are certainly many aspects of my talk that are probably bull dust.

Papua New Guinea (Dave Carney, Sep 2013, 39:48 min) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQa-HcHJlcY>  
Dave Carney, Executive Director / Directeur Executive; Canadian Military Engineers Association / Association du genie militaire canadien 1-613-225.9003; [www.cmea-agmc.ca](http://www.cmea-agmc.ca)

**Ed:** *The address is well worth opening; many great photos and text slides (some quite amusing). Unfortunately the dialogue is a little difficult to follow. Of course if you are reading this from our website in pdf, the hyperlink won't work. I suggest you re-enter it in Google. PS – excuse the French*

**John Collins....from UK.....** I am sorry for being such a dilatory correspondent since our return from our trip. No excuses really except that after three months away it takes some catching up; but grateful for all the news. I remember John Hillier well, though not always with great affection – he had this peculiar habit of ringing me up on a Friday afternoon to discuss the Regiment's Weekly Report, which he wouldn't speak to anyone else about, but I think he was well known for his phone calls to a large number of officers! Glad to hear you (Bob Skitch) are still mending and I hope Stan (Campbell) is too.

We are in good shape over here, although the weather, along with the cricket news, is terrible! Trust you had a grand Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John and Sue Collins...5 Saffron Street, Royston, Herts, SG8 9TR, UK

tel: +44 1763 248676 fax: +44 1763 230515 e-mail: [john@collins.demon.co.uk](mailto:john@collins.demon.co.uk)

**Ron Richards ( RAAOC )** I was surfing the internet and came across your web site. I was posted to 5 Fd Survey Sqn from Jan 1985 to May 1987. I was posted in the units Q store / Map store. The following RAAOC personnel also in the unit were Sgt E. Nicholls and Cpl Dave Webb (Orderly Room ). The following member worked in the Q store, WO Wally Prior, S/Sgt Ray Sargent ( I was sorry to read in your news letter that Ray had passed away), Pte Brain Ormonde ( he transferred to the RAAF sometime after I was posted out), WO D. Johnstone, S/Sgt Kenny Cox, WO Ron Leadbeater. While I was posted to 5 Fd Survey Sqn I was lucky to go on one of the unit's field trips to the Pilbara area. Our first camp was at Hillside station ( near the Marble Bar airport ) about 10k from the township of Marble Bar for 6wks and then 3wks in Port Hedland.

The following members on the field trip that I remember were;

Capt ? WO A. Toogood, Sgts R.Bright, F.Lenane, M.Evans, and A.Glanville; Cpls.Hall (WAH ), P.A.Drover, P.Pain, and myself, L/Cpls G.Hall and Sprs S.Ellis and B.Baldwin.



In 1998 I was posted to 1 Topo Survey Sqn for 3 years and I remember Major Bates-Brownsword.  
all the best ....Ron Richards

*Ed: forwarded to me by Brian Mead*

**Grant and Beth Small** did a tour of the UK last year and continued on to do a European river cruise and a train journey from Budapest to Zurich for one day and then on to Paris for three days. Beth says – Absolutely fantastic! The weather was beautiful and sunny the whole time.

**Tony and Loretta Gee take a trip:** A happy New Year to you and Wendy. Hope everyone is in good health.

It was a long cruise lasting for about five weeks. The trip did not start well as we had a 10 hour delay with our flight departing Brisbane for Los Angeles, thereby missing our non-refundable connecting flight from LA to Vancouver. We did overcome that drama with our credit card and made it in time to board our cruise ship, the Norwegian Sun, in Vancouver. From there we headed north to Alaska (I think they wrote a song about that) on the inside passage as far as Glacier Bay. The cruise consisted of three legs; 1st - Vancouver/Alaska/Vancouver, 2nd - Vancouver to Los Angeles, and 3rd Los Angeles/Mexico/Costa Rica/Colombia/Jamaica and finished up in Miami, Florida (no, I did not see Greg Norman on the golf course there). The ship docked just about every second day for us to tour the many towns and cities along the way as well as some retail therapy for Loretta.

We could not fault the cruise as they provided everyone with great service, great food, great wine and great entertainment.

Please accept our apology as we will not be here for Anzac Day this year. We will be in England to attend a re-union with people who served in 19 Air Survey Squadron during my two year exchange with 42 Svy Engr Regt, UK. This invitation was unexpected as it's been now over 30 years since that posting, but it will definitely be interesting to meet up with them once again. Really looking forward to room temperature beer and cold pork pie also.

Anyway Bob, please find attached some photos taken on our cruise.

Kindest regards...Tony & Loretta

**P.S.** We're thinking about a Svy BBQ, say one Sunday in August.



**Stan Campbell:** Stan has had a long battle with cancer but it seems to be a battle he has won. He emails: *It looks like things are getting back on track; thank goodness. Had the stent in my bile duct completely removed 2 weeks ago after having one in since Oct (replaced twice) and things are looking good. My liver function levels are still quite high but are slowly reducing, so the doctor gave me the OK to go on our cruise around the Caribbean and up the west coast of America to Alaska. We had booked this cruise about 12 months ago, before my troubles began and optimistically didn't think to cancel it. We leave on Wednesday and will be away until 21 May.*

*So please hold any emails until we return. Will be thinking of you while we are cruising (Ho-Ho)  
Regards from both of us Stan and Helen*

### **Vietnam again**

**Ed:** Ernie Chamberlain is the author of a unpublished book on the Viet Cong battalion D445. He emailed the following...

Further to our email discussions a few months ago, I have now written and privately-published a 145,000-word "non-commercial" (ie not for sale) and "limited edition" book that would be of interest to your RA Svy Vietnam veterans who served in Phuoc Tuy Province during the War: *"The Viet Cong D445 Battalion – Their Story."* Complimentary copies have been provided to several relevant



departments and agencies in Canberra (including Chief of the Army, Australian Army History Unit, Department of Veterans' Affairs, etc), to selected libraries and museums, and to "Canungra". I have also placed the text of the book on the Internet as "free-to-read" – <http://www.scribd.com/doc/62621973/The-Viet-Cong-D445-Battalion-Their-Story> . Interested readers will probably find it most convenient to access the copy - ie for free, on the Internet. However, to reduce the "file size" on the Internet, I have not uploaded the many annexes (ie A to N). In its first three weeks on the Internet, it has had about 2,400 "reads".

You might wish to place a short notice of the book's free Internet availability in your RA Svy Association's newsletter or on your website – and perhaps advise other State branches if you wish.

The sections probably of most interest to veterans are the Viet Cong's version of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966 – at

pp.39-48, and 7 RAR's successful ambush at Ca Thi (near Xuyen Moc) on 31 December 1970, p.79 – just another couple of hours and D445 Battalion would have been "safe" ie covered by the 1970/1971 New Year's ceasefire.

*Ernie Chamberlain's background is...: 36 years Army veteran – former DMI, two Vietnam tours, two years in Cambodia – Vietnamese linguist and Khmer speaker; RSL member.)*

*PS. I have included your work at page 4 of the book's bibliography – ie:*

*Skitch, R. (Bob), War in Vietnam – A Surveyor's Story (The Royal Australian Survey Corps at Nui Dat in its first year: 1966-67), Four Parts, 2010.*

### **.....and Vietnam again and again – the Long Tan memorial**

It is a strange circumstance that a nation allows a belligerent of a not so forgotten war to maintain a memorial to honour the dead and commemorate a battle in which that nation were soundly defeated but such is the case with the Battle of Long Tan. Long Tan was (is) a village a kilometer or so south of the battle but the very dense rubber plantation in which the battle was fought also carries that name – unofficially perhaps. That rubber plantation is no more. The memorial no longer sits in the middle of a dense rubber plantation but in the middle of a cleared field: the rubber trees have all been bulldozed. What a pity that at least a small grove of trees could not be preserved around the memorial. If we won the battle we lost the war – perhaps we were meant to lose it. Many veterans believe it served a worthwhile purpose in stopping the roll of communism in South East Asia. Perhaps it did!



**The Long Tan Memorial in the middle of a cleared paddock**

## **VALE**

**Peter Saunders:** Peter Mansell reports the passing of Peter Saunders .....

“I attended Peter Saunders' thanksgiving service in Bendigo on Fri 28 Mar 2014 along with 100 other people. It was a simple ceremony His son Steven conducted the ceremony. Peter was 77 years old and after a long fight he died of lung cancer. Steven ran through Peter's family history (quite a few amusing tales as we have come to expect) and was followed by Mal Finch from the Golden Square Bowling Club. Mal outlined Peter's long history at the club and presented an impressive list of positions that Peter had occupied within the club. They included Life Member, President, Bowling Coach and assistant groundsman.

It was a fitting send-off for Peter and the many Bowls Club members present formed a Guard of Honour. A number of Ex RASvy people attended the service that including Mick Dempster, Tom Royal, Stan Vote, Bill Forrest, Gary Warnest, Frank Thomas, Mick Flynn and two others.

We adjourned to the Bowling Club for an afternoon wake. All in all, a bloody good day for a bloody good bloke. May he rest in peace”. Regards.... Peter Mansell

**Ed** Peter was certainly one of the better known characters of Litho Squadron as anyone who ever served at Fortuna would attest. He was affectionately known as ‘bloodnut’, perhaps in recognition of his sporting prowess on the rugby field.



**Frank**

## **Frank Thorogood**

### *Frank's personal valediction*

*Miss me – but let me go  
When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me,  
I want no rights in a gloom filled room,  
Why cry for a soul set free.*

*Miss me a little – but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed low,  
Remember the love we once shared,  
For this is a journey we must all take  
And each must go alone,  
It's all part of the Master Plan;  
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
Go to the friends we know,  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds;*

*Miss me – but let me go.*

Frank Thorogood passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2013 after a long battle with Parkinsons. His funeral at Mudgeeraba was attended by Association members Alex Cairney, Kym Weston (and wife Faye) and Bob Skitch. Frank was highly regarded across all ranks who served with him in the Corps. Frank came into the Corps as a qualified lithographic officer having served an apprenticeship with leading Melbourne printing firms Troedel & Cooper, completing his Diploma of Lithography at the Melbourne School of Printing and Graphic Arts following which he worked for Wilkes and Co, printers of Readers Digest, Time Magazine and associated top level publications.

Frank married Nancy Walsh in 1955 and set about having a family. Their first child Cheryl was born a year later.

Frank became interested in the Order of St Johns and joined at the age of 14 undertaking first aid courses and becoming very proficient. This continued throughout his years of apprenticeship. He worked as a volunteer with the Brigade. This experience was to be put to the test when in 1954 serving his national service at Puckapunyal in an incident that was to set the course of his subsequent life. A group of young nashos souvenired a UXB from the range and took to their lines. With the rest of the platoon out for a run, the bomb exploded injuring several severely. Frank happened to be in camp and rendered first aid in a very extreme situation until further help arrived. His action saved at least one life. A report was sent to St Johns headquarters in Switzerland and Gunner Thorogood was awarded the St Johns Certificate of Merit with the accompanying ribbon.

Frank continued in the CMF following national service and was commissioned. He found CMF service pointless and boring and resigned his commission. In 1960 he thought about joining the regular army and finally did – RA Survey. He was granted a commission and posted to the then AHQ Survey Regiment serving as 2IC under Major Bill Howarth in Litho Squadron, at times acting as Squadron OC. This continued through to 1966 when he was appointed exchange officer to 42 Engineer Regiment RE,

UK. In 1968 he returned to Australia and prepared to go to Vietnam for a twelve month posting to A Section, 1 Topo Survey Troop as 2IC to Major Peter Constantine. After a short time as adjutant of the Regiment in 1971 Frank, now promoted to Major, attended Staff College at Queenscliff, Victoria. During that year Frank and Nan lived at Ocean Grove. Following his year as a student Frank continued at Staff College as GSO2 Operations through 1972 and was then appointed to Survey Directorate in Canberra as SO2 Personnel then Field Force Command in Sydney in the SO Svy appointment..

Throughout this time Frank maintained his interest in St Johns and all things associated, joining the Natural Disaster Organisation as a volunteer under Major General Alan Stretton. Frank had become known to Stretton and when Cyclone Tracy, then Australia's greatest natural disaster, struck Darwin in the early hours of Christmas Day, Stretton decided to head to Darwin taking Frank as his 2IC. Frank and Stretton were on a RAAF BAC 111 departing at 1330h from Fairburn direct to Darwin. At the same time a C130 departed Richmond with a medical evacuation team. Their mission was to evacuate Darwin. It was a signal event in Frank's life.

In 1975, now promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Frank continued in Survey Directorate as Deputy Director and then in 1979 as SO1 Survey HQ Field Force Command in Sydney. In December 1980 Frank was appointed CO Army Survey Regiment. It was back to Bendigo for the Thorogood family. Frank remained at the Regiment for only three months. Perhaps at that point he could not see his military career going anywhere and the opportunity arose to pursue another direction, one which had in the background been a second career parallel to the military. He took the job of head of Red Cross in Victoria. Again he became involved in disaster relief and management when Cyclone Isaac hit Tonga in the South West Pacific in 1982 and again in the disastrous South Australian bushfire of 1983. Frank remained with Red Cross for ten years and was awarded the Red Cross Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Medal and Long Service Medal.

Then in retirement and only 57 years old Frank looked for something to do and was accepted as a mature age student at the University of Melbourne to do a law degree. He was admitted to the bar in Victoria in 1997 and a year later in Queensland. He specialised in International Humanitarian Law with particular reference to the military, and presented papers in Geneva and elsewhere, including his 'alma mater' the Australian Staff College. In retirement he was appointed an adjunct professor of law at Bond University.

Frank and Nan lived for a while at or near Canungra Village and then moved to a canal block at Bundall within the Gold Coast. Not long before Frank's death they had moved to a Gold Coast retirement village.

Frank is survived by his wife Nancy, his son Lance and daughters Cheryl and Theresa.

**Tony Jones:** Tony served in the Northern Command Field Survey Section/Unit in the late 1950s early 1960s. Tony died on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Tony was always the Englishman; he came from Hastings and served two years National Service in Germany and Austria, in about 1947/48. For a time he worked in Kenya before emigrating to Australia and joining the Survey Corps. In the Northern Command Field Survey Section he served on field survey operations in north Queensland out of Normanton, Charters Towers and later, St George. Many would remember his greeting "*Hello Chaps*" that stayed with him throughout his life. He was 82 years old at the time of his passing. His funeral order of service rather poignantly reflected Tony with '*Hello Chaps*' on its front page and "*Goodbye Chaps*" on its back page.



*"Hello Chaps"*

**Keith Waller:** Keith was not one of ours but he had a long association with Northern Command Field Survey Section/Unit, later 1 Field Survey Squadron. Keith was a staff surveyor with the Survey Office of the Queensland Department of Lands, in charge of all things mapping and

photogrammetry and later Director, Division of Mapping when the 'Survey Office' became the Department of Mapping and Surveying. Our 1: 250,000 series became the basis of the Department's excellent 1:250,000 cadastral series which together with County Arbitrary Meridian (CAM) provided Queensland with the best cadastral map series in Australia (arguably some might say). Many of our own central and western 1:250,000 maps were controlled by astronomical position connected to cadastral corners and CAM so halving the number of fixes required to control a map area. The Survey Office calculated (by hand of course) long enclosed traverses through the cadastral network that provided a remarkable degree of consistency that made it eminently suited as 1:250,000 topo map control. Keith Waller was the go-between in making this happen.

Keith served in the RAAF during WW2 based at Darwin and undertook a surveying degree at the University of Queensland under the repatriation scheme after the war. He worked with National Mapping in its early years with the first model Geodimeter and then the Tellurometer on traverses in central Australia and Queensland. At the time of his death in early February at the age of 92 Keith had been retired for many years and had applied himself to charitable work for older people – bus driving for a Senior Citizens Centre. Keith is survived by his son John, a Melbourne based computer graphic design artist.

**Ed:** Keith was one of the humblest men I have ever known. He often spoke of his pre-WW2 years as a butchers boy working for a government butchers shop during the great depression. It was his RAAF service that gave him the impetus to study for matriculation and then a university degree in surveying.

## CONTACTS

**Ed:** *From time to time I receive an email from someone who has had some association with RA Svy in past years wishing only to make contact again. Recently I decided to reduce my holding of emails and in the process of deletion I found a few that I had not responded to or did nothing with. The following are a few that might strike a chord of memory in others....*

**Graham Rosen emailed.....**I just stumbled across the website. As a National Serviceman (2<sup>nd</sup> intake) I spent my time in Survey Corps. After basic training I went to the Survey School at Bonegilla, then Bendigo. After that I spent the rest of my time in Queensland. I was the only one from the 2<sup>nd</sup> intake that came to Queensland. I had a great time during my time in Survey Corps and served with some great people. It would be great to catch up with some of the unit members from that period.

**Ed:** *I replied to Graham asking a little more about his service and in a second email he said....*

Thanks for the reply. Currently I live at Pt Arkwright Qld ( just south of Coolum). I served from September 1965 to September 1967. I spent the last 12mths of my service at Enoggera when Major Stedman was the OC. Also participated in the North Queensland extended survey trip in mid to late 1967. I did approx.15yrs in the ARES after I left the NS and spent that time in the Intelligence Corps. I'm currently involved with the Coolum Peregian RSL Sub Branch. I recently came across some photos that I took on the North Queensland trip but time has put a dent in my memory and it's difficult to put names to faces. Some of the photos are OK but others are damaged by heat/water. Nevertheless they did bring back some memories of some fun times. if you want a copy please let me know. *Cheers, Graham Rosen, Mob Phone No. 0424 544 576*

**Greg Sulman emailed:** I was in the Survey Corps for 12 years and have been trying to update your history project, but find that the on-line form does not seem to be working. Do you have any other method you would prefer of sending the information? Cheers..Greg

**Ed:** *I have replied rather belatedly suggesting Greg simply email me the detail.*

**Rene (Bob) Dikkenberg** emails, You can use any of my cartoons at any time. I think that our paths crossed in the 1970's when I was with 4 FD SVY SQN. I served there (in the ARA) from 1971-1980 and then from 1986-1996 in the ARES. When the Corps was disbanded I went to Headquarters 9th Brigade where I still serve today.

RAE fellows are all good blokes but their powers to be 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.

RAE made me fight a huge battle just to get my trade recognized even though I was fully qualified at the time of the Corps amalgamation and 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 just to accommodate them 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 or I am likely to serve in) but they are a really great bunch a 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 Intelligence 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



When I joined the Army in January 1955 there was a sense of urgency in sending a number of us to the 'East' as we in the West called it at that time, for initial training. We flew, Trans Australian Airlines to Melbourne. How grand was that? At the age of 20 my first time in an aeroplane. It was quite a long trip, about six hours to Adelaide on a DC4 then on to Melbourne on a Viscount. Come Christmas all us Westerners were back home for Christmas; this time by train. We 'entrained' in Melbourne (in Army jargon you 'entrain' and 'detrain'), the Overlander from Melbourne to Adelaide, a bit of an old rattler to Port Pirie and then in the late afternoon onto the Transcontinental to Kalgoorlie and the Westlander

down to Perth. I think all in all that took about three days – Army time, not precious leave time. The Trans we travelled on was certainly not the best train the Commonwealth Railways had at the time, I think it was a pre-war model, but to my mind it was pretty good. It was after all a ‘troop train’ we were all members of the Navy, Army or Air Force but mostly Army. We were all allocated sleepers with fresh sheets and a railways blanket, made up for us by Railway staff, all ready to hop into after a very nice meal in the dining car. What more could one want? *Kiss me goodnight Sergeant Major – tuck me in my little wooden bed.* Grog was prohibited but it was surprising how many bottles of beer were somehow taken onto the train un-noticed, empty bottles simply chucked out of the window.

It was my first trip across the Nullarbor and I was fascinated by what I saw. Leaving Port Pirie in the early evening, by daybreak we were travelling on the Nullarbor itself; that incredibly flat desert plain unique in the world. One stretch of the track runs for 297 miles, 478 kilometres without a bend – the longest straight stretch of track in the world. There had been rain a week or two before and the red soil of the desert was blossoming with Sturt Pea – red and green. Our train made many stops along the way, small desert communities, Wynbring, Immarna, Barton, Watson, O’Malley, Cook, Denman and many others. Most of these are shown as abandoned on the map these days and I don’t think they were ever thriving communities in 1955, probably kept alive by rail maintenance gangs. Only a few years before the locomotive pulling the Transcontinental would have been steam driven (I was disappointed that ours was not) and fairly frequent water stops would have been needed. Water! But from where? Then and I suspect now the track at 4 foot 8 ½ inch gauge was single track so there were the inevitable waits on sidings for a train heading west to east to pass. I think we were overtaken at one stage – we, a Troop Train had no priority. In December it was very hot. Air-conditioned we were not other than by dropping the windows to let in the hot desert wind. Many stripped down to their under-jocks – we had no ladies aboard. Our draft conducting officer, a young lieutenant in a smart safari uniform passed word down the line that we were to wear shirts and trousers to the dining car – we did! And what did the railway staff in their black trousers white shirts and bow ties think of us half dressed army blokes? They never said, remaining polite and professional. Our return trip a couple of weeks after Christmas was the reverse of the first.

On another occasion, again for Christmas leave in 1957 I made the trip to Perth on the Trans train, much the same as the first time but I didn’t return that way. Being fairly flush with cash after some fifteen months in New Guinea I resolved to buy a car and make the return trip East on the Eyre Highway. I bought a second hand Wolseley 6/80. That meant it had six cylinders and developed eighty horsepower – pretty impressive! With the help of my stepfather I fitted a rail above the front bumper bar on which I hung a couple of filled waterbags for cool water and had a couple of jerrycans in the boot, one for water and one for extra petrol. He also gave me a length of very heavy rope in case I needed towing and a length of fencing wire for emergency repairs. With a mate as co-driver (Bev Ewings) we set out from Perth early morning. It was very hot and we only got half way up Greenmount on the Great Eastern Highway (in Western Australia all the Highways are ‘Great’ even if they are not all that great) and the engine started to cough and splutter. I was able to coast back down Greenmount to Midland Junction and a helpful garage bloke determined that I had fuel vaporising in the battery operated fuel pump. He replaced it at a modest charge and we set off again without further problems. I believe we made Southern Cross by evening and over-nighted in the luxury of a motel, then on to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie and after a brief look around – the statue of Paddy Hannan and Kal’s iconic bordellos (yes they are heritage listed) south to Norseman to join the Eyre Highway and that was where the adventure began. I should hasten to add that you do not drive across the Nullarbor; the Eyre Highway is well south of the Nullarbor and for much of its length it is quite close to the coast. Certainly it does not have much undulation but then it is not billiard table flat like the Nullarbor. It also boasts the longest straight stretch of road in Australia – 146.6 kilometres between Balladonia and Caiguna.

And so we set out on the Eyre Highway. In 1958 it was totally unsealed, for its greater length covered in thick bull-dust with the consistency of face-powder. Bull-dust of that thickness, several inches, has the ability to conceal the rocks it overlays. Thankfully we managed to avoid most of them. Drum based petrol stops (pump you own) were few and far between and often there was a water tank at the drum



stops, the water I think was free but the petrol in the values of 1958 was exorbitant. We finally made Port Augusta, a distance of 1666 kilometres from Norseman. The only mishap I recall was the radiator mounts fractured and thankfully no damage was done to the radiator. The fencing wire was sufficient to carry out a repair. You can mend anything with fencing wire.

There have been many other trips across the Nullabor far less luxurious than my own. My cousin Edna was a nursing sister during WW2. She 'joined up' in Perth and travelled on a troop train from Perth to North Queensland taking two or three weeks. It took a number of days to reach Melbourne. As my cousin tells it the male soldiers sat in open wagons all the way, their only comfort being their kit bag. The girls, mostly nurses travelled in conventional carriages but no sleepers; perhaps the officers too. At about four o'clock in the afternoon the train would stop on a siding and marquees would be erected with portable kitchen and a meal of sorts cooked and provided. The same would happen in the morning and the train would get underway about nine. She said the girls had great fun – quite an adventure. Perhaps the trip north through western NSW and Queensland was a little more comfortable.

My final trip across the Eyre Highway was in January 1970 having just returned from two years in Singapore with a Mercedes Benz car. The Eyre had been sealed by then as far as the South Australian border and it was still pretty rough after that.....These days I fly!

#### **NIGERIAN NEWSLETTER #4 FROM GARY HUNTER...10 March 2014**

We've had a busy couple of weeks here on our land titling project. Last week our teams met with two local Kings at their respective palaces and introduced the land titling project to them. In some countries you would call this activity 'public outreach', but here we call it 'sensitization' and we use it to inform the community about what we're doing and to get the consent of the local community elders and leaders. You can see the two Kings in the first few images and my Nigerian colleagues clearly hold their local royalty in very high regard. Unfortunately, I was busy preparing for something else on the day these meetings were held, so I wasn't able to attend.

The next bit of news is that we commenced our first public display of 229 land parcels and claimant details this week. The idea is that the display runs for 30 days and the locations of the parcels and the names of the people who are claiming them as their own are on display for everyone in the community to inspect. This way anyone who objects to a particular land claim can do so, and also if there are any details that are wrong the claimants can ask for corrections to be made to our information (for example, the wrong spelling of a name). We selected a central public area for the display and we mounted all the information on a set of wooden display boards. We'll run newspaper, radio and TV advertisements as well as have a Town Crier walking through the area each day handing out leaflets. We have two staff members at the display every day to handle questions and it has gone smoothly so far without any disputes or objections.

Usually, we would identify a dispute early in the field work stage and if it's not resolved by the senior leaders in the local community (who are appointed as adjudicators), then we wouldn't go to public display of that particular parcel while the matter is unresolved. We've had no disputes recorded in the city of Akure where this public display is taking place, but another of our three teams, located about 25 km to the north of Akure, has recorded six disputes so far. Four of them have been resolved by the local village Chief, but the other two are still outstanding – with one of them having real potential for fighting between the two families concerned (the dispute relates to a land parcel boundary). When the 30-day public display period has ended, any parcels that haven't been disputed will progress to the final stage where a government-signed Certificate of Occupancy is prepared by us and presented by the State Governor.

On a humorous note, when you work on these development aid jobs you're normally given a mobile phone with a SIM card soon after you arrive which has been used by a previous advisor. That isn't a problem, but it can become a nuisance when that person's local friends continue to call his phone number long after he has left the country. In my case, a previous advisor who shall remain nameless (let's call him "Mr Alan from New Zealand") had evidently made a number of very close female friends here in Nigeria, and I was assigned his phone and SIM card. Several times I've had to answer their

calls to his old phone number and explain that he was no longer working here. In the end, I seemed to solve the problem when I would answer each call politely and explain that “Mr Alan has left the project and gone back to his wife and seven children in New Zealand”. Invariably, I would receive the response “Oh”, followed by silence, and only I knew that in fact “Mr Alan” was single.

**Fact:** The Nigerian equivalent of Hollywood is called “Nollywood”

In closing, here are some interesting Nigerian newspaper headlines from the past two weeks:

- *“God is yet to reveal that the APC [a political party] will win 2015 Presidential Election – Pastor”*
- *“Man found hanging in Ibadan” [story complete with photo of the man hanging from a tree with his hands tied behind his back]*
- *“Teenager bags jail term for stealing church amplifier”*
- *“How we discovered headless body of assassinated victim – Police”*
- *“I raped my daughter to get a job – Father”*
- *“A voice told me to have sex with my daughter – Father”*
- *“Couple arrested for fighting nude in public”*
- *“The good, the bad of chewing gum”*
- *“Help! I’m sleeping with an unwanted man”*

Take care and best wishes,.....Gary



The King of Ilara-Mokin (left) pictured with my Nigerian counterpart (Dr Adewale, centre) at the King's palace attending a meeting to explain the land titling process and gain his support.



My colleague, Dr Adewale (left) with the King of Ita-Ogbolu at another meeting publicizing our land titling project.



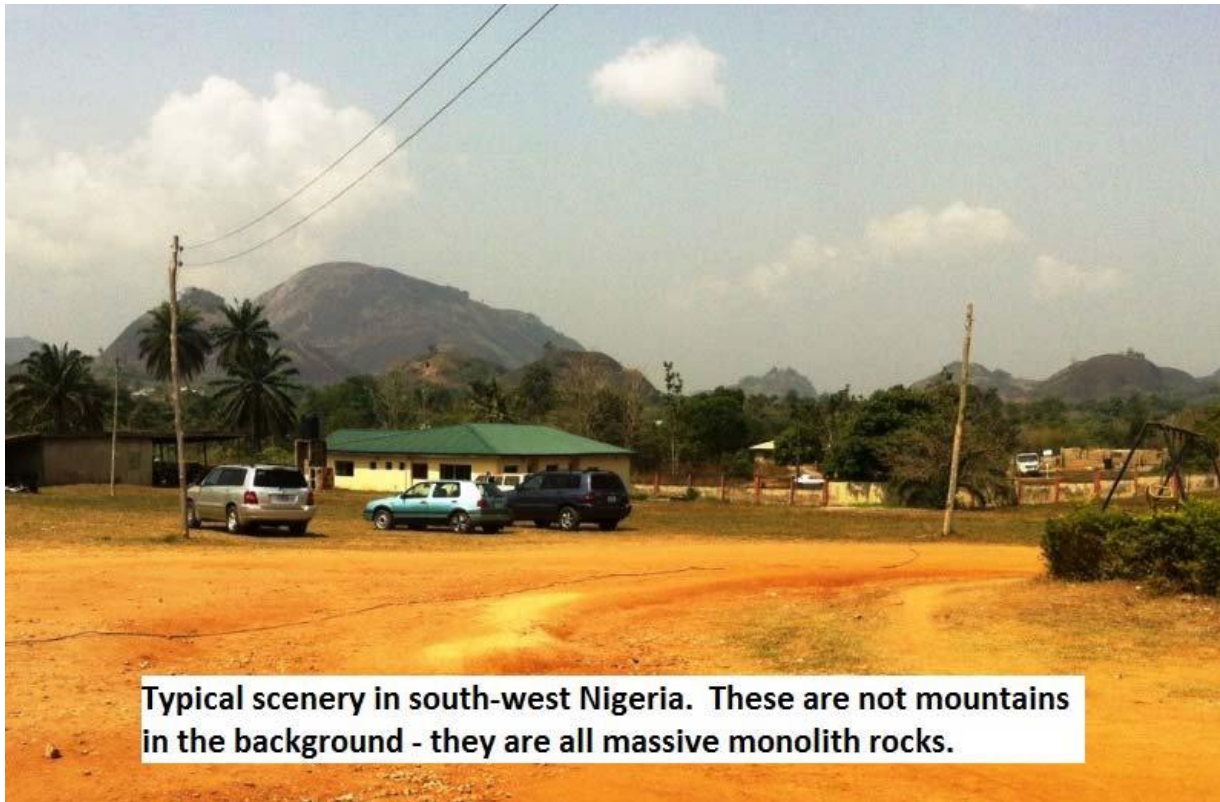
Our land titling staff were all introduced to the King, and this fellow is pictured bowing low to the King before meeting him.



**Our land titling staff setting up the public display boards last Monday.**



**Everyone carries items on their heads.**



**Typical scenery in south-west Nigeria. These are not mountains in the background - they are all massive monolith rocks.**



**Me shown here with my Nigerian counterpart, Dr Adewale, pictured on the first day of the public display with two women who wanted their photo taken with us - and then asked us for money !**

**PHOTOS FROM BRIAN WILSON'S ALBUM**



**Bryan on Operation 'Blowdown' – 1962/3**



**At Balcombe: Being very regimental – Bryan Wilson, Bob Bartlett, Bill Boyd, Phil Eastern, Bob Woods, ?**



**Another creek crossing with the Studibaker – thought to be Tony Jones**



**? and Ross McMillan – observation reductions in the field. Note the single Brunsviga calculator**



**'Helicopter Utilities' somewhere – our air support on many field operations**



**Survey camp at Coen – very orderly**