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## ANZAC DAY MARCH SYDNEY 2012

This notice is to advise all old, new members and inter state visitors of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association NSW the arrangements for the **2012 SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH**.  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.**

As usual we will assemble at the corner of **Hunter & Bligh Street at 9AM** and wait direction from the marshal to form up behind the banner.

We look forward to members and non members marching to keep up the past traditions of the Royal Australian Survey Corps on this Special Day of Remembrance.

As in past years members from the Geomatic Wing of SME have volunteered to carry the banner. For those who have purchased the Corps purple beret & badges please remember to wear them on the day.

At the conclusion of the march we will hold a short meeting in Hyde Park near the Red Cross tea stand.

### Items for discussion;

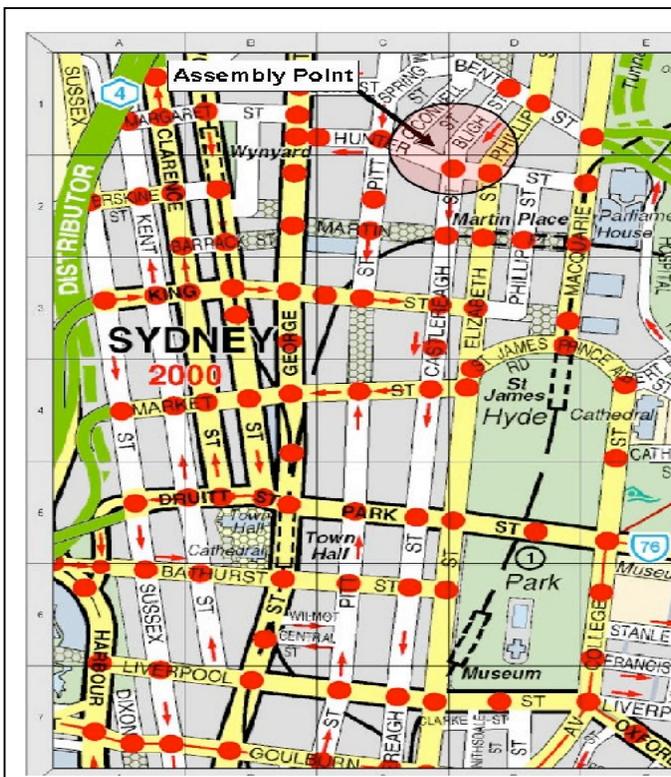
Presidents Report

Treasurer's report

Conformation of Presidents report

The election of office bearers

### ANZAC DAY MEETING AND ASSEMBLY POINT



### INTERSTATE ASSEMBLY POINTS

#### Brisbane Queensland

FUP is in George Street between Charlotte & Elizabeth Streets. Form up behind Water Transport at 1000hrs

#### Canberra ACT

FUP ANZAC Avenue at the junction with Blamey Crescent at 1000hrs form up behind Survey Corps Banner

#### Melbourne Victoria

FUP is on the Western side of Swanson Street between Flinders Lane & Collins Street. Form up with 2AIF behind Survey Corps Banner at 0900hrs

#### Adelaide South Australia

FUP Grenfell Street 150 Metres West of Pulteney Street at 0945 hrs  
 Telephone 0411 405 860

#### Perth Western Australia

FUP is near Pier Street 0930  
 Telephone 0418 566 898 to confirm location

## Museum News

**Due to the new security protocols regarding access to the site, all visits are by appointment only. Members are required to have either a current driver's licence or valid passport as proof of identity this is important as these are the only two accepted forms of ID.**

**When there is a scheduled appointment the curator will arrange to meet the visitors at the Pass Office located at the rear gate of Holsworthy Barracks.**

**The curator will arrange for passes to be issued, visitors are then escorted for the duration of the visit.**

### **Curator contact details**

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Noel Ticehurst advised the editor he was working on a project involving early European explorers in Papua and New Guinea during his research of this project he has used topographical information compiled by the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

Noels research of the patrols by Charles Karius and Ivan Champion has led to some interesting observation and highlights the difficulty both men experienced.

This is part one (1) of two (2) parts of Noels Ticehurst's paper and the editor wishes to thank Noel for making this paper available to the Survey Corps Associations prior to its publication.

## NORTH WEST PATROL OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA 1926-1928

### **The North-West Patrol Remapped**

The first attempt by Charles Karius and Ivan Champion to Cross New Guinea from the Fly River to the Sepik River was abandoned in 1926-27. Their second attempt at an expedition in 1927-28 was successful. The story written for this newsletter will be about thirty five percent of the final research paper, which will remap both expeditions over 1926-28.

The aim of the story for this newsletter is to explain the route taken by Charles Karius from Camp 13 to Daru; from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1927 to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 1927. And to map this portion of his route using Karius and Champion's reports, Champion's book "Across New Guinea" and also using a combination of aerial photographs, a computer Terrain model, 3D simulations and Royal Australian Survey Corps' 1970's Papua New Guinea 1:100,000 and 1:250,000 maps.

Nomenclature of rivers, villages, mountain peaks and ranges were taken from Royal Australian Survey Corps' 1:100,000 scale maps. Names in brackets, where possible, were taken from the Royal Geographic Society's 1929 map of Karius and Champion's North West Patrol of 1926-28.

RASvy is the accepted abbreviation for the Royal Australian Survey Corps and is used throughout this paper.

The full grid coordinates are scaled from 1:100,000 scale maps and all grid coordinates for this paper are in zone 54.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1927. - 6:00 a.m. left Camp 10 and arrived Camp 13 at 4:00 p.m. at the junction of the Wok Luap (Palmer River) and Wok Narin (Ivan Creek). The day's travel was 10 hours and approximately six miles (10 km).

Camp 13 coordinates approx. 587100 E, 9386500 N.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April. – Karius leads his party up the Palmer River and arrives at the junction of two rivers. There appears to be an equal amount of water flowing from each river. The river from the north is clear and the one from the east is white. Initially Karius believes the eastern branch to be the main source of the Palmer River. He later changes his mind. The result can be seen on Karius and Champion's 1929 map where the Palmer River appears as an alternate name to both the Wok Luap and Tungom River. He finds another junction and follows the river to the right naming it the White River. They camp along this river at 2200feet (670 metres). This camp called (K1) for reference only is some distance below the limestone landslide which is causing the water of the river to turn white.

The day's travel was approximately six miles (10 km).

Camp (K1) is at 596400 E, 9388250 N.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. – The party continues to climb along the White River until 10:30 a.m. They halt at the bottom of a landslide which is about 2600feet (800M) above sea level. Karius describes an exquisitely beautiful picture of what he saw as he climbed towards the landslide. "From the river level the valley rises and widens in series of terraces of snow-white limestone. These in themselves present a wonderful spectacle, but as one continues the ascent and the occasional glimpses of the huge snow white landslide, flanked by these terraces, are obtained, the picture becomes stupendous, quite defying description. A sight never to be forgotten", Karius (1927, p. 95). He is brought back to earth a little when the police comment "All the same Public Works, Port Moresby" Karius (1927, p. 95); a reference to a quarry in Port Moresby. After leaving the landslide they climb over a ridge and descend to what Karius' is still calling the Palmer River. Then made a steep ascent where they come across a small village, where they question an old woman and a captured and frightened man. Not surprisingly they learn very little. Two small villages can be seen on the Telefomin 1:100,000 map at about the right place for them to have arrived, considering the time they were on the move.

The day's travel was approximately 2.8 miles (4.5 km).

Camp (K2) is at 597000 E, 9392500 N.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. - 6:30am started on a track going in a northerly direction. A two hour climb brought them to a clearing at grid reference 598000E, 9395000N (Telefomin 1:100,000, published 1975). From here Karius can see to the east, south and south-west. He observed compass bearings to Mt Blucher 220 degrees and Mt Mabiom (Karius gives it a temporary name of Mt O'Malley) 230 degrees. On the 1975 map the difference between grid north and magnetic north is 4.7 degrees and the magnetic variation less than 0.1 degrees in ten years. Adding 5 degrees to any of Karius's compass readings gives suitably accurate grid bearings. A reverse bearing of 45 degrees from Mt Blucher to the clearing where Karius stood is a good confirmation of where Karius described his position and of the grid reference mentioned above.

The Palmer River that Karius crossed on the 19<sup>th</sup> April is seen on the 1928 map to continue to the east then turn to the north before looping around to the west Karius & Champion (1928). In fact this river's source is in the mountain range Karius was standing on but to the south east and therefore, it doesn't enter the large valley to the east. In the valley to the east is, to Karius, the yet unknown and unnamed Murray River. This river is named Sey River on the RASvy 1:100,000 Ok Tedi Topographic map and Wongop (Ogop) River on the 1:250,000 Blucher Range Geology Map. Although they could see the mountain on which the White River landslide lay, they could not see the landslide itself because they were on the far side of the mountain and too far to the east. The landslide mountain was named Mt Baldie by Karius.

They crossed the divide at 6,100 feet (1860M) and descended a spur gradually for about three hours. There were three options as to which spur they descended. The one to the North West being the most likely because of the direction it heads and its steadier gradient. They made camp at two shelter huts. This camp, possibly near the present village of Baktamin is camp (K3).

The day's travel was approximately 9 hours and approximately 5.5 miles (9 km).

Camp (K3) is at 3800feet (1160M) and at grid 598000 E, 9399100 N zone 54 approximately. The true position of the camp isn't certain.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April. - Left camp (K3) at 6:15am and at 9:45am there is a description of the track, travelling northerly, dropping from 4000 feet to 3000 feet, crossing a North West flowing creek and near the track a waterfall with a drop of 1000 feet. The only position of the waterfall I can find which satisfies all criteria is at grid coordinates 595650 E, 9400950N.

They continued on and arrived at a village of fifteen houses at 11:00am at an altitude of 3,300 feet (1000M), only a cripple man at home. Taking into account the direction they were travelling when they left camp (K3), a good day's travel along a well used track should see them in the Sitamin people's country. There are a number of clues as to where the village is situated. They travelled east-north-east for three hours from the village and came to a substantial river flowing in a north-east direction. This narrows the search to two rivers. Karius and Champion's 1928 map shows only one possible river, the Wungop or Strickland, travelling time to the Strickland River rule out the Strickland name for this river. The RASvy's 1:100,000 Telefomin map geology map shows two possible rivers. The first is Wok El which flows into the Sey River, which then flows into the Murray River. The second is the Wangop River about ten kilometres south of the Wok El River. At Karius's return to the valley of the Sitamin people on the 4<sup>th</sup> May he reads a compass bearing to what he believes is D'Albertis Dome and walks westward to the foot of a range. This information later shows he is on the Wok El.

Although Karius suggests that the north-east flowing stream might flow into the Sepik via the north-eastern slope of the Victor Emanuel Range. Karius (1927, p. 95) states, "Country very mountainous and a heavy mist is hanging over the entire valley. It's impossible to form an idea as to the general direction of the watercourses". Karius seemed obsessed with the idea of a stream flowing to the NE and into the Sepik River, why? Karius twice revealed his reluctance to lead his carriers to an altitude between 7000feet and 8000 feet. This was an essential feat if he was to make the one day journey across the watershed. Instead he chose the impossible NE flowing river route which added to the undermining of the 1926-27 expedition. A comment in Champion's "Report of Sub-Patrol" section of the 1926-27 expedition Revealed that Karius was the sole carrier of a map. Champion (1932, p. 82) writes, "What watershed was this? I had no map; what map there was Karius had, and it showed a blank space between Mount Blucher and the Victor Emanuel Range." Champion in one of his reflective moments, during a cold and sleepless night, admits that he does not know his whereabouts. "I am trying to piece together the maze of mountains and streams which we had seen, and of which we had been told. Where were we actually, and where were we going? ... I wondered too, where Karius was" Champion (1932, p. 85).

*Champion and Karius could not have known where they were. The part of the map where they were was a blank space. They had only one instrument a compass and the constant cloud cover made the compass almost useless. Even if they could take bearings to mountain peaks, there was no survey control.*

"Due to lack of detail it isn't possible to say exactly where camp K4 is positioned. However, we can get a rough idea because it is two and a half hours east of the Sitamin village (K5). Due to the very rough travelling the party probably didn't cross the Don River.

The day's travel was approximately 11 hours and approximately 12.5 miles (20 km).

Camp (K4) is thought to be near grid location 590000 E, 9412200 N.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. - Karius returns to the village of the 21<sup>st</sup> April at 1:30pm. Karius was greatly taken in by the villagers' clothing, or lack of it, and body decorations. The party was given taro, the first since the coast, and a pig was shot with an arrow and presented to them. The villagers and the explorers became great friends. They made camp near the village and although the party was retracing their steps I have called this camp (K5), because they hadn't camped there previously.

The day's travel was approximately 7 hours and approximately 5 miles (8 km).

Camp (K5) is near 587300 E, 9412000 N. The true location of the camp is uncertain.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. – Returned to camp 13 at the junction of the Palmer River and Ivan Creek. There are no details about the return trip from camp (K5).

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. – Planning for a second attempt to reach the Sepik River took place during this period. Karius informed Champion that he was taking a party of 21, among them the strongest carriers along with 6 of the strongest police. His police force consisted of Sergeant Gegeera, Corporal Iari, Armed

Constables Arura, Iawogo, Dogio and Kiopi. He arranged for full rations to sustain them for 22 days. The expedition's capacity to move the base camp forward from camp 13 was now impossible due to the state of the carriers and the mountains they had yet to climb. Champion (1932, p. 54) writes, "Karius proposed that he should make a dash for the Sepik, taking a small mobile party with him, while I took the remainder back to Daru. I left bitterly disappointed that after reaching the mountains I was to go no farther, but, of course, someone had to look after the carriers". Karius (1927, p. 96) writes, "Instructed Mr. Champion to slowly work back to camp No 9 on the Palmer, with the balance of the party, taking all stores, &c. with him. To wait at camp No 9 until the 21<sup>st</sup> May, just in case things did not go well with my party and we were forced to return. If no sign of me by that time he was to conclude I had succeeded in crossing the range, and he was to proceed down the river per raft to Daru."

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May. – Moved off at 8:15 am and camped just above the junction of the Palmer River and White River. This time they camped alongside the Palmer instead of the White.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. –It took the party about three and a half days to walk from Camp 13 to the Sitamin village (K5) camp. This confirms the time taken for the first trip to this Sitamin village. The party arrived around mid-day on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, giving Karius and two A.C.'s time to travel to the foot of the mountain range to the west.

When the cloud lifted for a short time some impressive mountains were seen to the west and north-west. One on a compass bearing of 347 degrees was thought to be D'Albertis Dome. This appears to be a peak at the western end of the Victor Emanuel Range. The distance to the peak by Karius's estimation is 7 miles however; it is more like 4.5 miles. I noted Karius's had previously over estimated distances. The back bearing, of 172 degrees Grid, plotted from the peak passes neatly through the area of the north-easterly flowing Wok El less than 500 metres east of the track from the south east, which Karius and party travelled on from the south. Karius and two Acting Constables explored the Wok El to the west by travelling along a track in a west-north-west direction. They find many streams flowing into the river from the north, south and west. One stream from the west comes from between two high peaks and Karius presumes these peaks to be the Macgregor Peaks. These peaks appear to be the two peaks of around 10,000 feet at the north-east and south-east corners of the limestone plateau north of Bolivip. The evidence suggests a strong probability the party is close to the junction of the track from the south-east; the track to Bolivip and the track to Fermin.

On a platform in the centre of the village Karius placed a tomahawk and three sheath knives as presents and payments for the use of their houses.

*Both Karius and Champion write about D'Albertis Dome being on the Victor Emmanuel Range and the Macgregor Peaks on the eastern end of the Dap Range. If these mountains were not on the map held by Karius then Karius and Champion must have heard of them from other Patrol Officers. Austin and Thompson had patrolled to the west of where Karius and Champion were.*

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. – Moved out at 6:00am and the party travelled in a north-easterly direction down the valley of the Sey River. Later that morning their friends from the village caught up with party. The villagers took them to a garden and led them to understand that they were to help themselves. Karius (1927, p. 95) said, "I felt that I had seen this country before, and shortly after this we came out into a small taro garden which I had found on my previous visit". (A check back through the report doesn't reveal another reference to a small taro garden). The party followed their former tracks and arrived at their (K4) camp at about 4:00pm where they stayed the night. The day's travel was approximately 5 miles (8 km).

Camp (K4) is at approximately grid 590000 E, 9412200 N. The true position of the camp isn't certain.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. – From 6:15am until they camped at (K6) Karius estimated they travelled 15 miles but made only 4 miles in a straight line down stream. The country terribly rough and broken

The day's travel was approximately 4 miles (6.4 km).

Camp (K6) is at approximately grid 595000 E, 9409000 N. The true position of the camp isn't certain.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. – Karius (1927, p. 95) writes, "Extremely rough travelling over one ridge after another, and on occasion crawling around the face of cliffs, a misstep meaning a fall anything from one to twelve hundred feet. Many landslides were crossed necessitating wide detours".

The party came across a native track coming from south-west and followed it for a mile. Where they happened upon a small sago patch, at 1800 feet (550M), where everyone worked to produce 50 pounds of sago. The bed of the river where the Sey River and Wok Awel merge to become the Murray River is just below 560M contour on the 1:100,000 RASvy map.

The time and distance for the day's travel is unknown.

The position of the camp (K7) is unknown, but probably not far from where the Sey River and Wok Awel merge into the Murray River.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. – Moved off at 6:00am following the same track ENE easy travelling. Came upon the remnants of an old suspension bridge at 10:30am and then found a spot to throw a new bridge, about 100 yards wide. The party worked on bridge building for rest of day.

The day's travel was 4 hours 30 minutes and the distance travelled is unknown.

The position of the camp (K8) is unknown.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. – Finished bridge at 9:30 and all the party had crossed by 10:00am. They continued along the track they found on the 8<sup>th</sup>. It was rough going crossing a number of old landslides and hearing and seeing a landslide take away part of the track behind them. Karius (1927, p. 97) writes, "Looking back we saw the face of the mountain we had just left, swept by a huge landslide. The top of the slide (is) about one thousand feet above river level, the width of the slide at its base being fully three to four hundred yards. The track we had so recently traversed swept clean away".

Karius, up until this date, was of the belief that he was following a river to the North east which would eventually flow around the east end of the Victor Emmanuel Range in a northerly direction and into the Sepik River. He reveals his doubts about the direction of the river believing that the river is inclined to flow south of east and not north of east. He then makes two interesting statements. "Feel I am on the Strickland watershed" and "Having crossed to the northern bank of the river I am now on the southern fall of the Victor Emmanuel Range, towards the eastern end of same" Karius (1927, p. 97). The party made camp (K9) at 4:30pm.

The day's travel was 6 hours 30 minutes the distance is unknown

The location of Camp (K9) is unknown.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. – Today is a day of deep reflection for Karius. Later in the day he ponders over his options of what to do next while revealing his fears for the ultimate safety of his party. In Karius's account of this valley he describes continual earthquakes some strong enough to cause landslides. Sometimes the landslides are in the valley; but more often the sounds are heard emanating from the Strickland valley ahead. His fear of yesterday that the river will turn to the south is realized when the clouds clear from the valley. He describes a huge wall of rock running north south at the far end of the valley and the river of the valley turning due south between two high peaks, where it merges with the real Strickland River just south of the two peaks. While still in the landslide valley Karius makes one of his intuitive observations. "This can be no other than the Strickland River" Karius (1927, p. 97). However, he is wrong because he is on the Tekin No 3 River, one of the tributaries which flow into Strickland from the west.

*Karius's description of the valley can be seen by rotating the 3D simulation of the Terrain model until the observer is looking straight along the Tekin No3 River. Small saucer shaped shadows along the valley walls reveal where some landslides have occurred.*

Of all the rivers flowing from the west into the Strickland River, between the east end of the Victor Emmanuel Range from the north and the Devil's Race to the south, only the Tekin No 3 River fits Karius's description of the lower end of the valley with its huge rock wall, sudden divergence of the river to the south and the two high peaks. Aerial Photographs (Blucher Range, CAJ 1454, Run 17-10) show numerous old and new landslides, on both sides of the river, all the length of the valley. Much scaring of the valley sides reveals a very active area of landslides towards the lower end of the valley, near where they chose to camp for their last night in the valley. It is no wonder they made an early and hurried exit from the valley the next morning.

Comparing the flow in the Tekin No 3 River with that of the Palmer River Karius observes that the Tekin No 3 River is 1600 feet (480M) above sea level. Interestingly on the RASvy 1:100,000 topographical map the 480M contour crosses the river about 250 metres up from where the river makes its abrupt turn to the south and probably not far from the (K10) camp site.

“Ten days have now elapsed since starting out from No 13 camp. To go back or get in touch with Mr. Champion at No 9 camp, out of the question; he will have commenced the return trip to the coast before my messengers could get through”. Unknown to Karius, Champion had not followed his orders and was in the Bolivip area north west of camp 13. Champion did not start to leave camp 13 until the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Looking at another option Karius (1927, p. 97) writes “To retrace our steps to the upper waters of the Strickland and attempt to cross the range by way of what looked like a promising pass to the east of D’Albertis Dome, at an approximate altitude of 7,300 feet, also out of the question”. Now he writes of low food supplies and the unwillingness of carriers to stick to a rate of progress which would have seen them in this valley three or four days earlier. “I speak here of rations for the police and carriers. My own private stores have long since been expended” (Karius 1927, p. 97). Champion (1932, p. 55) writes “The carriers had their blankets, a spare loincloth, and 50 lbs. of rice each; some, of course, carried the flies and buckets. Karius’s personal stores were placed in with the rice, and he told me later that a few days after leaving every tin of meat had been stolen”. Surprisingly, no where in the report since leaving camp 13, is there any mention of catching or shooting wildlife for meat; the bush tucker man would be pleased.

To get a better sense of where he is; Karius decides to climb to the source of a stream near their camp. He reaches a watershed on a saddle between two mountains. The visibility is poor so he can only see into the valley and not to the main range which is 2000 feet higher than where he is standing. The valley he is looking into is the Bak River valley. It runs parallel to the Tekin No 3 River valley and is also on the southern fall of the Victor Emmanuel Range. Karius definitely does not get to see the Northern fall of the Victor Emmanuel Range or the Main Central Range further to the north.

Karius is tempted to go on, but the combination of risks, sixty miles of unknown mountains; hundreds of miles of rafting; poor state of carriers and only twelve days rations for the party proves too much for him. “The risk of losing the whole party too great. A bitter draught with the goal so nearly within my grasp. Decided to return to Daru by way of the Strickland. This I realized might easily prove an hazardous undertaking. The limestone belt to be crossed again, and should the river not afford a passage through, many valuable days, seeking a road, would undoubtedly be lost” (Karius 1927, p. 98)

The day’s travel in time was probably around 4 hours 30 minutes the distance travelled is unknown.

Camp (K10) is probably around grid 626300 E, 9409000 N. Since no village can be seen in this area, either on maps or aerial photographs fifty years later, an accurate position of camp (K10) is uncertain.

### **To fellow Sappers and friends,**

**Richard Jackson-Hope has promised to enclose the second installment in an April / May edition of the newsletter. It will be a bit shorter word wise but I will add some maps which I hope you all find interesting.**

**PS: Hope to see some of you in Sydney on ANZAC DAY.**

**Noel Ticehurst**



John Lymbery the only WW2 member to march 2011    Bernie Cain    Noel Ticehurst    Phil Bannister

**Just in case those old New Guinea Survey Corps Surveyors have forgotten what it was like in the Strickland and Fly River Area here are a few photographs taken in 1962.**



**Bill Hill Lakekamo River Papua**



**Heavy Tropical Rainfall Strickland River area**



**Inspecting the Native Canoe  
Lakekamo River Papua**



**Stan Campbell & Bill Hills  
Lakekamo River Papua**

**Note all the past NSW and other state newsletters are available on [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)  
Please also note there is postal change of address for the NSW association it is now;  
P.O. Box 63 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777**

**Richard Jackson-Hope President / Secretary / Treasurer  
Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (NSW)**