



Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (NSW)
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MARCH NEWS LETTER 2009

ANZAC DAY is fast approaching and this news letter is to let the members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (NSW) know what the arrangements are for this year's ANZAC Day March.

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

As in past years members from the Geomatic Wing of SME have volunteered to carry the banner and the senior members of the association will head the association's marchers.

For those who have purchased the corps purple beret & badges please remember to wear them on the day. Members who have not purchased the corps purple beret and would like to do so please see the details below



Members of the RA Survey Corps Association (NSW) marching at the start of the ANZAC march 2007

Place a beret order with; Assistant Treasurer RA Survey Corps Association.
 P. O. Box 5784 Stafford Heights
 Qld 4053

Beret Sizes

Small	54	55
Medium	56	57
Large	59	60
X large	61	62

Include a Cheque or money order for **\$30.00 plus \$5.00** for postage made out to; **RA Survey Association (Qld)**

At the conclusion of the march we will hold a short meeting in Hyde Park near the Red Cross tea stand. Grid reference **D 6** on the Assembly Point Map, the Red Cross Tea Stand is below the cenotaph.

Items for discussion;

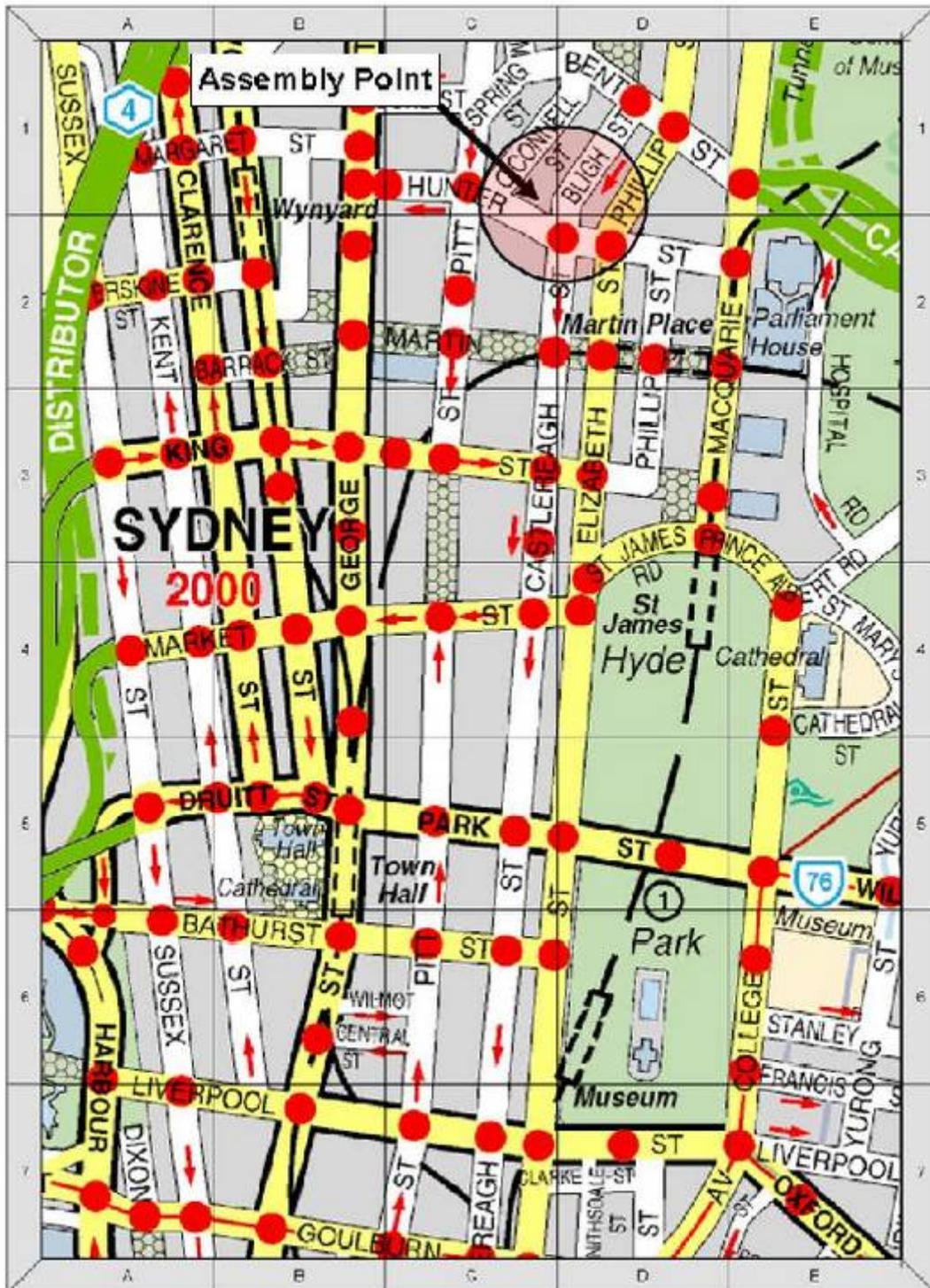
President Report

Treasurer's report

The election of office bearers

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.

ANZAC DAY MEETING AND ASSEMBLY POINT



Vale Robert (Bob) Keith Purdam December 2008 Canberra

The following is a summary of Bob's Army Service Bob Enlisted in Adelaide on 26 Oct 1942. His Initial Training was at Northam WA with the Artillery from Oct 42 to Feb 43 and then at East Burwood & Darley Vic with Survey Corps Training Depot from Feb 43 to Aug 43.

Bob was posted to 2 Field Survey Coy, Childers Qld, in Sept 43. As a member No.1 Section, detached, he landed at Lae on 26 Dec 1943. Bob worked with various Field Parties from Finschafen to Sio and Saidor and the Markham Valley. In Jul 1944 he was detached with an astrofix Party to HMAS Warrego, part of the US Seventh Fleet, and did star observations at various islands north of New Guinea and at Aitape and Morotai. In Oct 1944 he was transferred to HMAS Gascoyne, which was the lead vessel of the Hydrographic Group for the landings at Leyte Gulf. He carried out star observations at Dio Island in the Gulf, and then hydrographic surveys of Leyte Gulf and Samar Island. Bob returned to Australia in Feb 1945. He subsequently rejoined his old Unit (2 FD Svy Coy) in Bougainville in Aug 1945 and finally returned to Australia in Nov 1945. Bob was one of only a handful of Aust Army personnel that served in the Philippines. Subsequent to his War Service, Bob was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on 26 Jan 85, for Public Service, particularly with the Department of Civil Aviation.

Vale WILLIAM (BILL) ATHEY JEFFERY (Below is an extract of Charlie Watson's tribute to Bill Jeffery.) Sadly I have to report the death of Bill Jeffery on 25 Feb 09 in Queensland. Bill was born 20 Sep 24 and spent his early years at Lockhart NSW close to the Vic border, hence his favoring AFL over NRL. Bill served in 2/6 Commando Squadron during WW2. Actually 2/6 was in 7 Div not 6 Div as you may speculate from the numbering.

Being a Commando Bill was always very fit and left many a younger bloke puffing up the hill behind him. After the war Bill joined the Survey Corps and rose to the rank of Sergeant before taking his discharge in the late 60's. Some time before or after the war Bill trained as a sign writer and suffered in later life from the effects of the lead paint. Bill made the cover for the Canberra Survey Corps Association Functions Attendance Book and kindly provided the autographs of those attending the Survey Corps Jubilee Dinner on 11 Nov 65. After taking his discharge from the Survey Corps Bill joined the Geodetic Section of the Division of National Mapping in Canberra. Bill was a very good observer and did a lot of first order and Laplace Astronomical Observations. With the wind down of Geodetic field work Bill went on to Bathymetric Surveys of the Continental shelf, which is where I met up with him having heard a lot about him from Frank White and the older hands at Survey Directorate. We spent many years surveying on the MV Cape Pillar. Bill got on well with people and provided a steadying influence on many a new or old field hand or surveyor.

Editor's note; One could only describe Bill Jeffery as a real gentleman a person who had an understanding of human nature and too many young men who joined in the late 50's and early 60's a mentor and a counsellor. Bill will be sadly missed by his many friends and associates from that time.

Survey Corps History Project – What did we do over all those years – 1946 - 1996

Bob Skitch is compiling information on the operations and what individual members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps did during these operations. The history webpage is now available on the Queensland website and Bob Skitch would appreciate any information past members could supply on [and on any operation they may have served on and](#) what they did on [that](#) operation. There is a lot of information missing and if it is not collated now it will be lost for future history researchers.

Details can be sent to Bob Skitch. bob.skitch@runbox.com directly or entered on Queensland website; www.rasurvey.org

On the website you will find a link to the [history file](#) the method of data entry. There is also a great deal of [information about the many survey operations that took place in the period 1946 to 1980 but not a great deal after that date.](#)

Individuals can enter information directly onto the website [or email it directly to Bob](#). For those with out email fill out the blank form with this newsletter and sent it to Bob Skitch. The Queensland mail address is; Secretary Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) P.O. Box 5784 Stafford Height Qld 4053

This is an important project if you have information please send it to Bob or fill in the gaps on the website so the information is not lost. Below is an example from Frank Fischer plus a blank form.

From Frank Fischer

YEAR	UNIT	OPERATION/ PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION
1972	2 Fd Svy Sqn	Gading 2	3 months	Indonesia – Sumatra – Main Base Palembang	Survey control – Aerodist & air photography	OC Maj Ted Laker; WO1 Ross McMillan (in Singapore) Sgts – Andy Henry, Col Laybutt; Cpl Dave Johnston, Sprs Rusty Williams, Danny Galbraith, Alan Glanville, Alan Brown, Cam Chapman, Frank Fischer, George Zirom.	
1977	2 Fd Svy Sqn	Cenderawasih 2	May to July	Indonesia – Irian Jaya – Main Base Biak	Survey control – Geociever, air photography, and high altitude air photography flown by RAAF	OC Maj Don Swiney, S/Sgt John Scharber; Sgts Alan Derby, Peter Jensen; Cpls Danny Galbraith, Frank Fischer; Sprs Nev Kelly, Lamie Lyle, Bruce Hammond (camera operator).	
1978	do	Cenderawasih 3	3 months	do	Survey control – geociever, Air profile recorder (APR)	OC Maj Don Swiney, Cpl Frank Fischer, Spr Ken Talbot-Smith	Civilian Queen Air aircraft for APR unit.

YEAR	UNIT	OPERATION/ PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION

Past NSW Associations News Letters

The past 4 newsletters are now available on the Queensland website www.rasurvey.org you will find other state association newsletter and information available on the site. Queensland has been proactive in developing a web site for the Survey Corps Associations and it has become the de facto website for all the state association.