



Newsletter

*Royal Australian Survey Corps Association
of South Australia*

Number 60 - Winter 2015

Anzac Day 2015

as reported by Alex Munro

A total of twenty two members formed up at 10.00 am. At the time a few dark clouds overhead threatened rain. There was a short shower soon after we formed up, but as we had not yet stepped off we were able to shelter under nearby trees, so no wet tails! The sky had cleared by the time we did step off and it remained fine for the remainder of the day.

We were ably led by Noel Sproles with Dave Irving carrying the banner. Our group was not well positioned between bands so we were unable to hear the music all that well. But with Dikko up front and someone at the rear calling the time, we maintained step fairly well and presented ourselves as former soldiers should, - well, hopefully!

Being the centenary year of the landing at Gallipoli the crowd of spectators was probably larger than usual. They seemed very appreciative of each group as they passed by, especially considering they had been there for almost two hours.

During the march, compliments were paid at the State War Memorial, the South African War Memorial and the saluting point for the Governor of South Australia. HE Hieu Van Le. The radio broadcast covering the march included commentary of the centennial of the Corps.

At the completion of the parade everyone formed up for a group photograph taken again by Kay Henderson and also Noel Sproles' daughter Fiona. I thank them both for their time and effort.

Our next move was to the Torrens Parade Ground to jostle with the large crowd there queuing up for refreshments, being sold by various army units for regimental funds. It is always a good place to meet with former service friends. At about mid-day, and after a round or two, members began moving to our reunion venue at The Elephant Hotel.

We were again fortunate this year in having the upstairs bar to ourselves, served by an attractive Canadian lass as our barmaid, with about twenty four bods attending the reunion. A big winner for the afternoon was Boags draught beer on tap at six dollars an imperial pint. Together with the very acceptable bar meals available, the AFL game in Melbourne on TV during the afternoon and the chance to reminisce with old friends not seen for many months, this all combined for a very pleasant afternoon.

Stumps were pulled a bit after 5.00pm, ending a very enjoyable reunion.

Seen during the day were the following, with apologies to anyone missed;

Alex Munro, Dave Irving ,
Noel Sproles, Mal Henderson,
John Scharber, John Whitburn,
James Scharber,
Bill and Cameron Griggs,
Bob Dikkenberg, Ken Talbot-Smith,
John Frith, John Wicker,
Steve McGuinness, Anthony Stephens,
Jon Dean, Jim Nathan, Lincoln Smith,
Jim Dunn, Neil Houston, Stevo Hinic,
Eddy Jacobs, Peter Elverd, Greg Higgs,
Alex Czornohalan, Rob Langley, Bob
Turnbull, and Darcy Patrick

100th anniversary of the Corps

For many years now our Association has celebrated the Corps' birthday on the nearest Sunday to the 1st of July.

This year, with so many of our members attending celebration functions in Canberra and Bendigo, that would not be practical.

The matter was discussed at the Anzac Day reunion and the consensus view was to hold our function at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 26th July 2015.

So, please mark your calendar now.

Details of the function will be notified by a flyer nearer the day.

Centenary functions in Canberra and Bendigo.

Attendances at both locations are well and truly over subscribed, with large waiting lists hoping for a cancellation.

The paid-up attendance list at Bendigo holds around 350 names of members and partners, which is putting a strain on the resources of the various venues, although many are not attending all the functions planned over the week-end.



After the march - Anzac Day 2015

Front Row L-R:

Mal Henderson, John Scharber, Alex Munro, Darcy Patrick, John Whitburn, Cameron Griggs.

Middle Row L-R :

Bob Dikkenberg, Ken Talbot-Smith, John Frith, John Wicker, Steve McGuinness, Anthony Stephens, Noel Sproles, Jim Nathan, Jim Dunn.

Back Row L-R :

Lincoln Smith, Bill Griggs, Dave Irving (behind the banner), Neil Houston, Stevo Hinic, Eddy Jacobs, ?, Peter Elverd.

Vale - in brief.

Ken Shaw

Ken died on 21 April 2015. He will be remembered by older members as he enlisted in 1945, serving as an infantry soldier for some time before transferring to RASVY. Before his retirement in 1978. Ken served in various postings, as SSM at the School of Military Survey at Balcombe, at the Army Survey Regiment, in PNG on HQ PNG Comd and Singapore. He will be remembered with esteem by all who served with him. The picture on the right was taken at the 1967 Corps conference in Bendigo.

Alan Hawkins

Better known as 'Hawkeye', Alan had suffered ill health for some years before his passing in March this year. He enlisted in the Corps in 1967 and served for twenty years before retirement, and I always found him to be trustworthy and reliable. He will be well remembered locally for his years in 4 Field Survey Squadron.

[Continued overleaf]





Anzac Day 2015. Just before the saluting point on King William Road

Vale - in brief (continued)

Donna Grayland

Donna finally succumbed at the Bendigo Hospice on 19 May 2015, following a long illness. She enlisted in the Corps in 1991 and served until 1996.

Shane Calcutt.

Shane died in April 2015 suffering from cancer. He served in 2 Field Survey Squadron from 1982 to 1989.

Colin Middleton

Colin died in mid April this year aged 94 years. During WW2 he served in the Corps from 1940 to 1945, and as a surveyor in civilian life he was highly regarded within the profession, holding the position of Surveyor General of Victoria at one time and later as secretary of the Victorian Department of Crown Lands. A very distinguished career.

USGS Topo Maps

Follow this link to get access to thousands of topo maps of the USA.
<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/Topoview/>
It would be nice if we could do the same.

George Timmins dog

For George Timmin's many friends who knew her, his faithful pup Wantok passed away several months ago succumbing to inevitable old age. For the curious, wantok is Pidgin English for 'one talk' meaning a close friend, the name no doubt due to George's service in PNG.

George has since acquired another loveable pup given the name Penny